



Dance in the
Wampire Bund

NOZOMU TAMAKI

VOLUME 10

Tamaki Nozomu Presents Dance In The Vampire Bund 10

DANCE IN THE VAMPIRE BUND

10

NOZOMU TAMAKI

Wir sind Dickhäuter,

wir strecken die

Hände nacheinander aus,

aber es ist vergebliche Mühe,

wir reiben nur das grobe Leder aneinander ab,

wir sind sehr einsam.

We are all of us beasts,

clothed in a thick skin.

We reach our hands out to one another...

but it is useless.

Our hands may touch, but none can tell.

For all we are doing is rubbing one

unfeeling hide against another.

We are, each and every one of us...

Alone.

Buchner, Dantons Tod, Act I

J'ai lâché le paquet. Qu'on m'enferme,
 qu'on me lynche. Comprenne qui pourra
 : Je suis un mensonge qui dit toujours la
 vérité
 J'ai lâché le paquet. Qu'on
 m'enferme, qu'on me lynche.
 Comprenne qui pourra : Je
 suis un mensonge qui dit
 toujours la vérité
 J'ai lâché le paquet. Qu'on
 m'enferme, qu'on me lynche.
 Comprenne qui pourra : Je
 suis un mensonge qui dit
 toujours la vérité
 J'ai lâché le paquet.
 Qu'on m'enferme,
 qu'on me lynche.
 Comprenne qui pourra
 : Je suis un mensonge
 qui dit toujours la
 vérité
 J'ai lâché le paquet. Qu'on
 m'enferme, qu'on me lynche.
 Comprenne qui pourra : Je suis un
 mensonge qui dit toujours la vérité
 J'ai lâché le paquet. Qu'on
 m'enferme, qu'on me lynche.
 Comprenne qui pourra : Je suis un
 mensonge qui dit toujours la vérité
 J'ai lâché le paquet. Qu'on m'enferme,
 qu'on me lynche. Comprenne qui pourra
 : Je suis un mensonge qui dit toujours la
 vérité
 J'ai lâché le paquet. Qu'on
 m'enferme, qu'on me lynche.
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 suis un mensonge qui dit
 toujours la vérité
 J'ai lâché le paquet.
 Qu'on m'enferme,
 qu'on me lynche.
 Comprenne qui pourra
 : Je suis un mensonge
 qui dit toujours la
 vérité
 J'ai lâché le paquet. Qu'on
 m'enferme, qu'on me lynche.
 Comprenne qui pourra : Je suis un
 mensonge qui dit toujours la vérité
 J'ai lâché le paquet. Qu'on
 m'enferme, qu'on me lynche.
 Comprenne qui pourra : Je suis un
 mensonge qui dit toujours la vérité
 J'ai lâché le paquet. Qu'on
 m'enferme, qu'on me lynche.

Dance In The Vampire Bund 10

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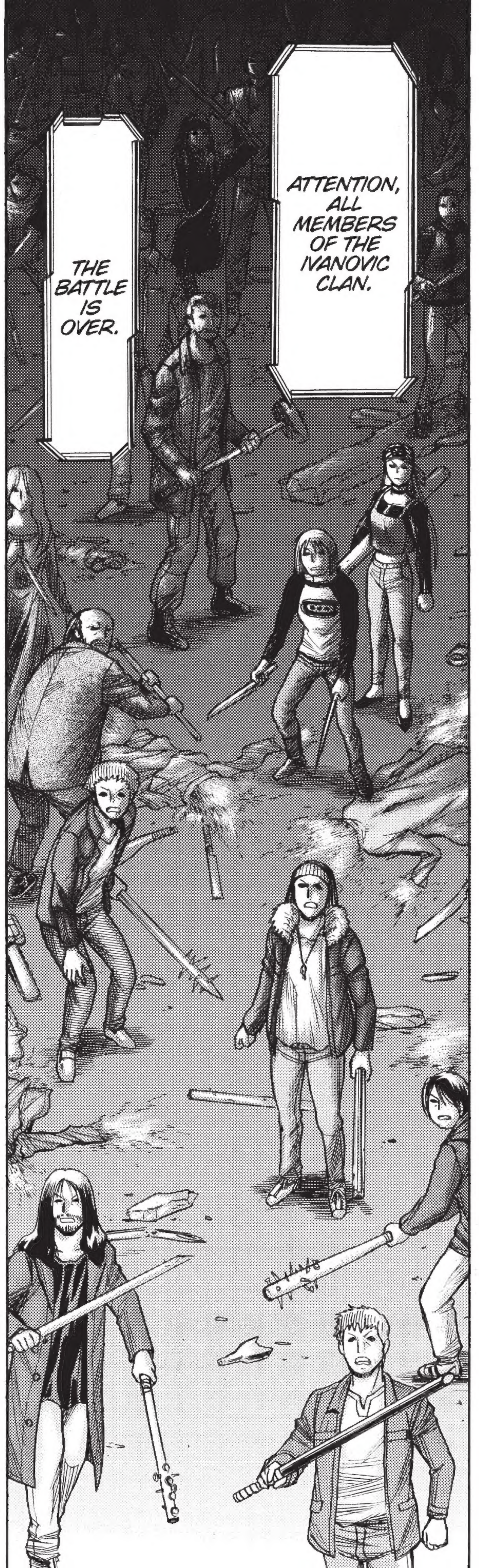
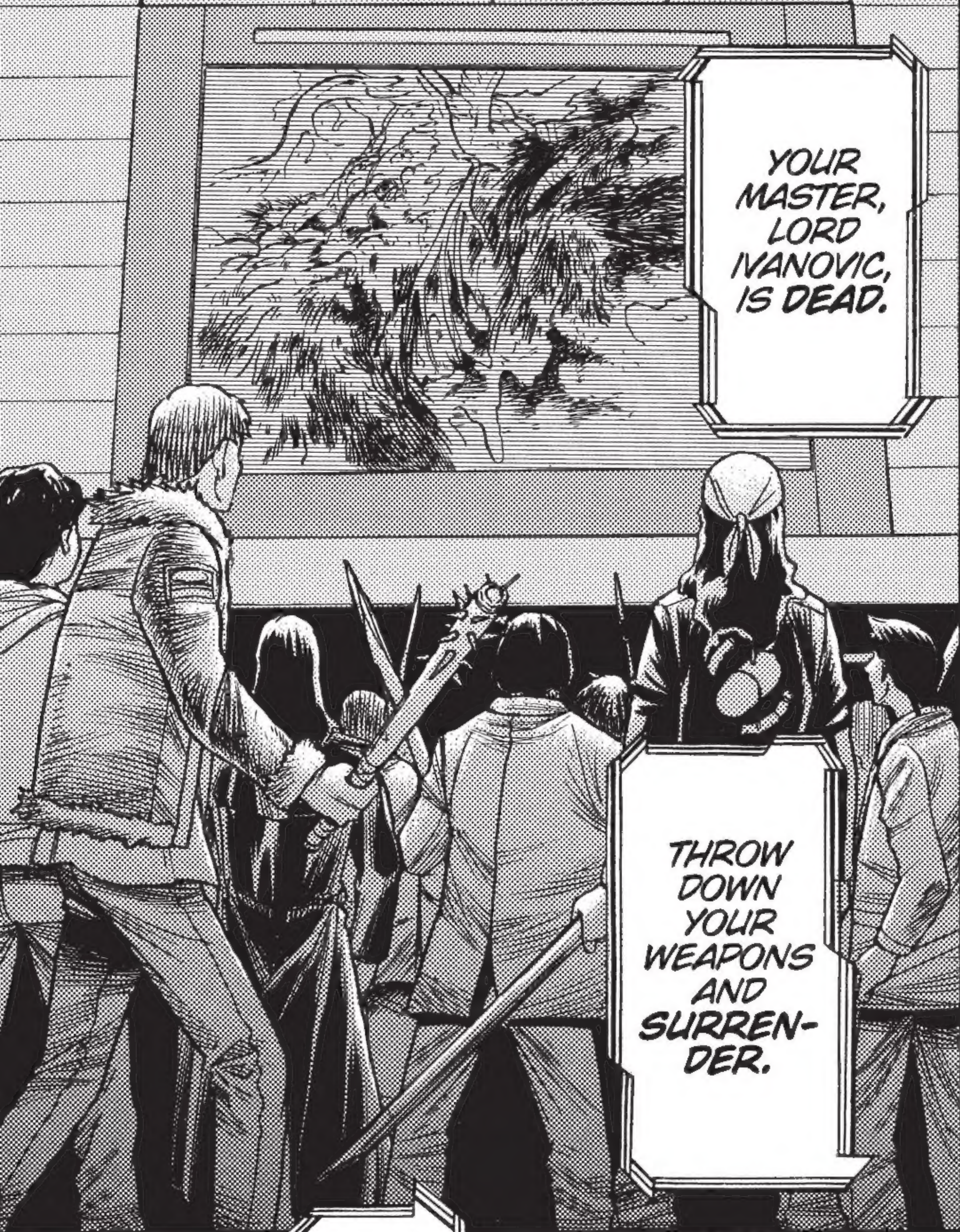
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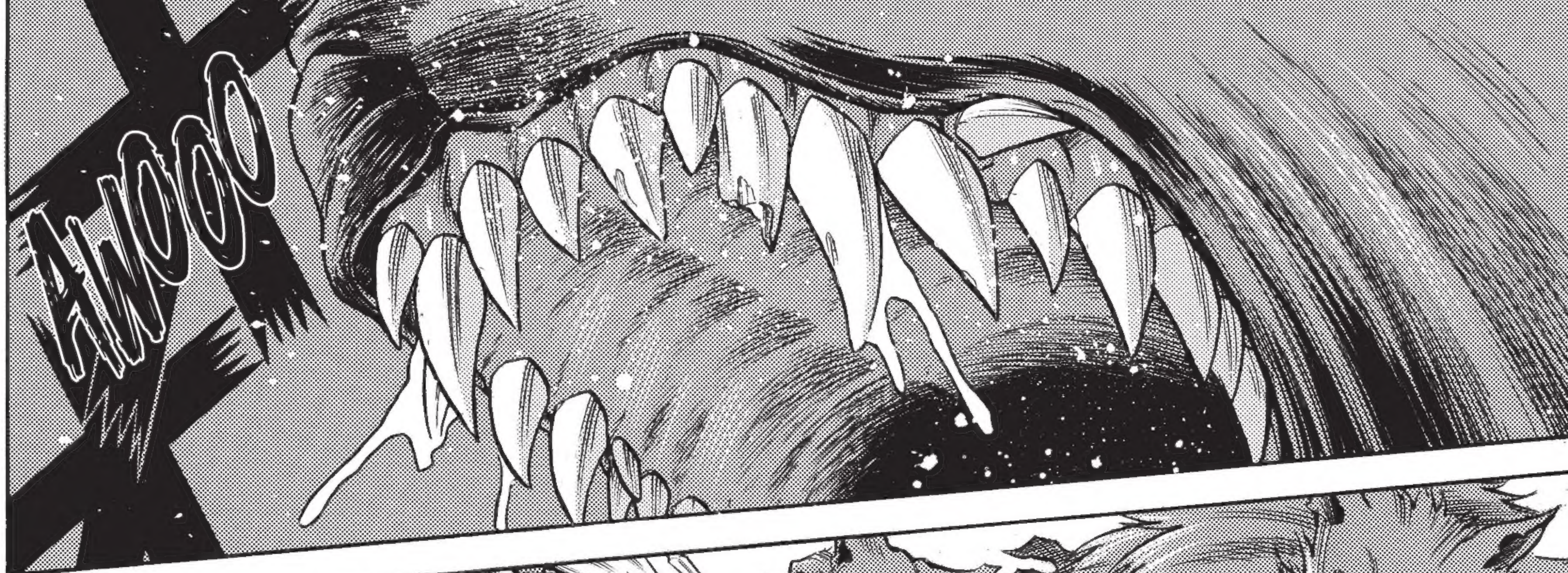
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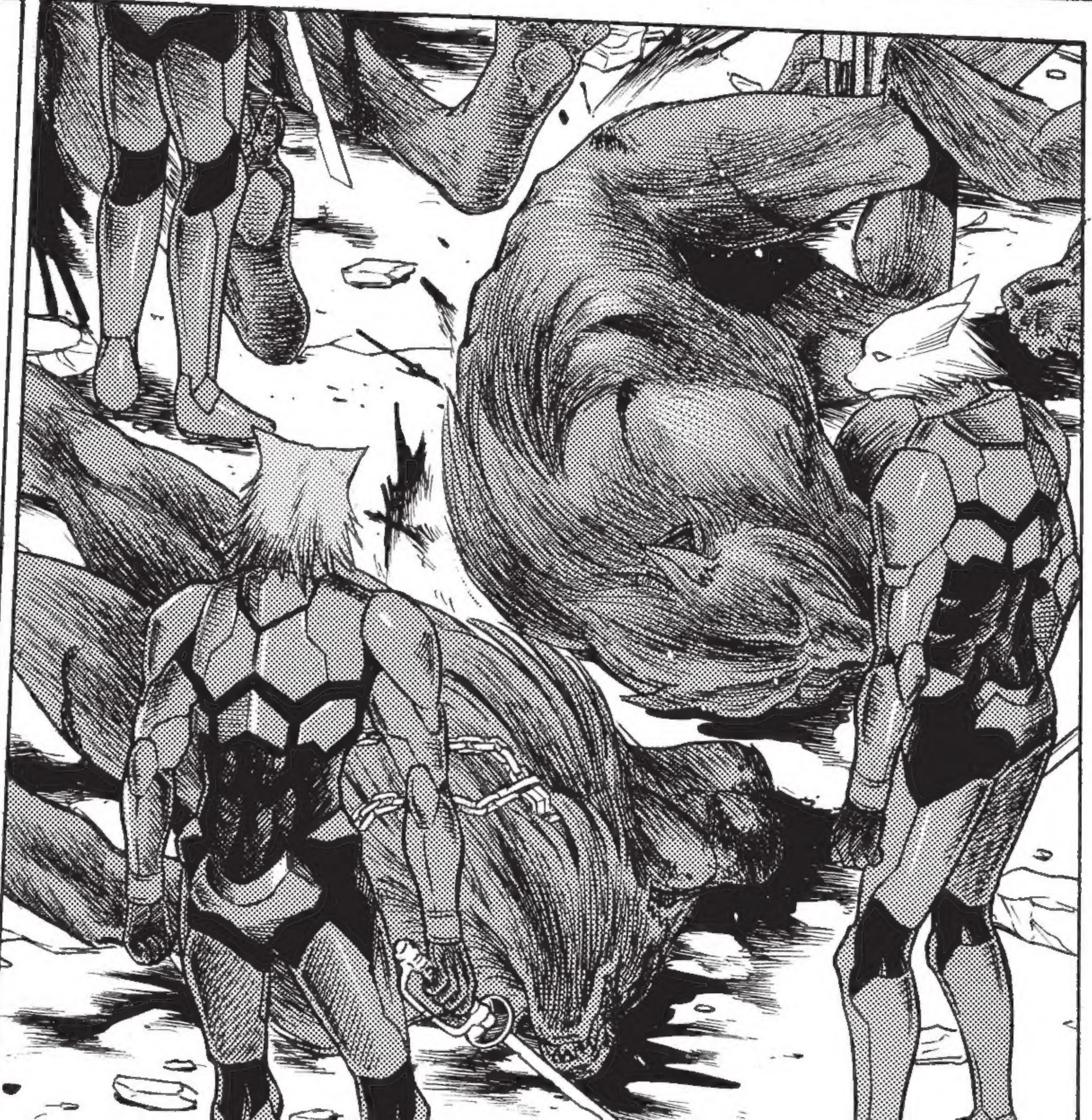
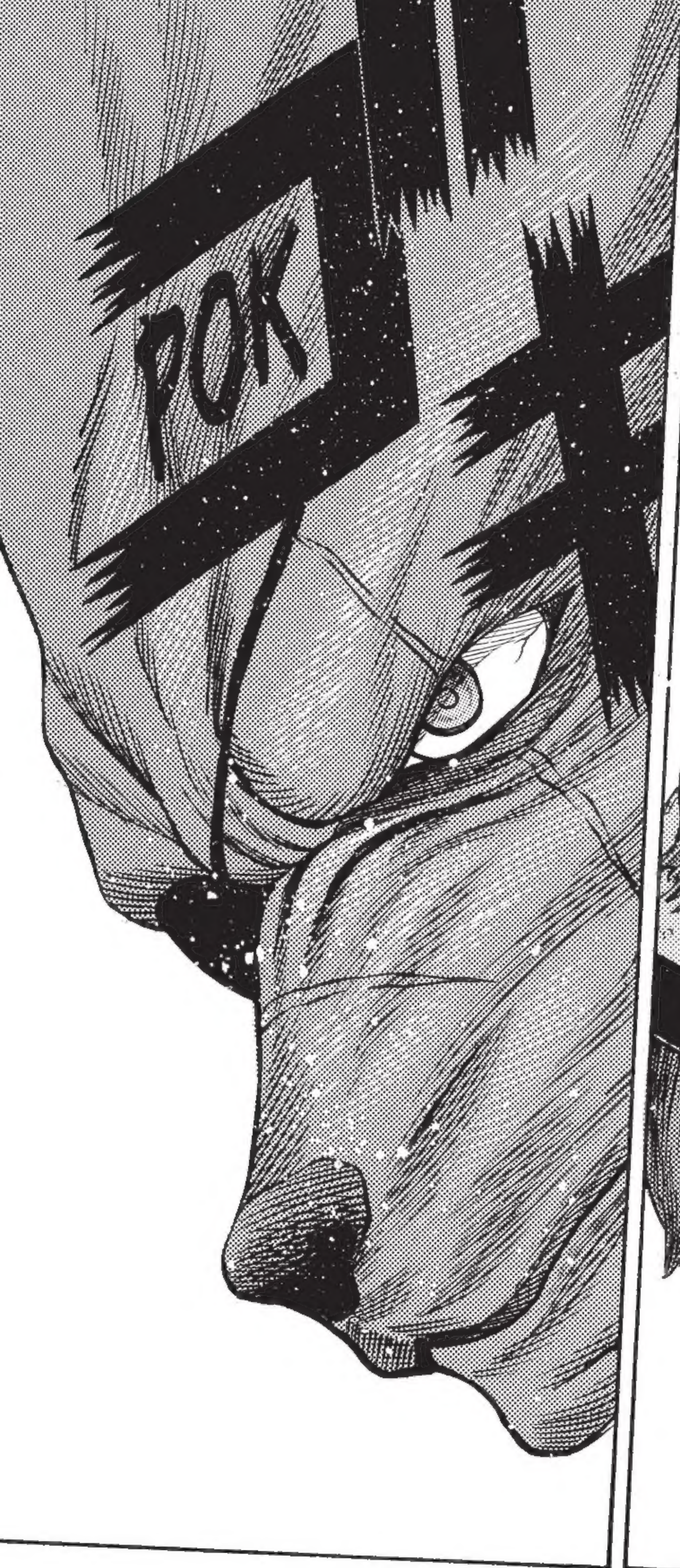
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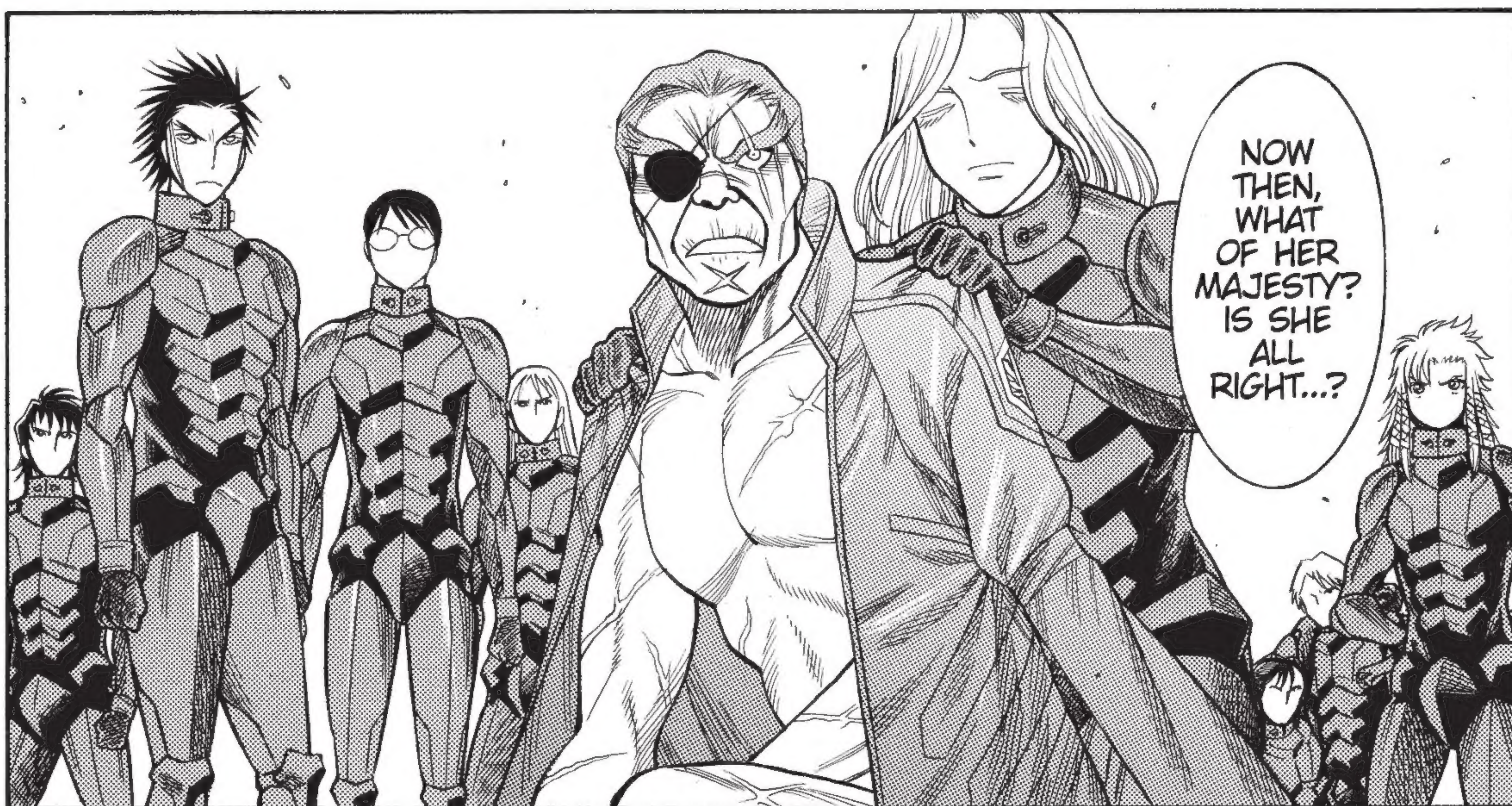
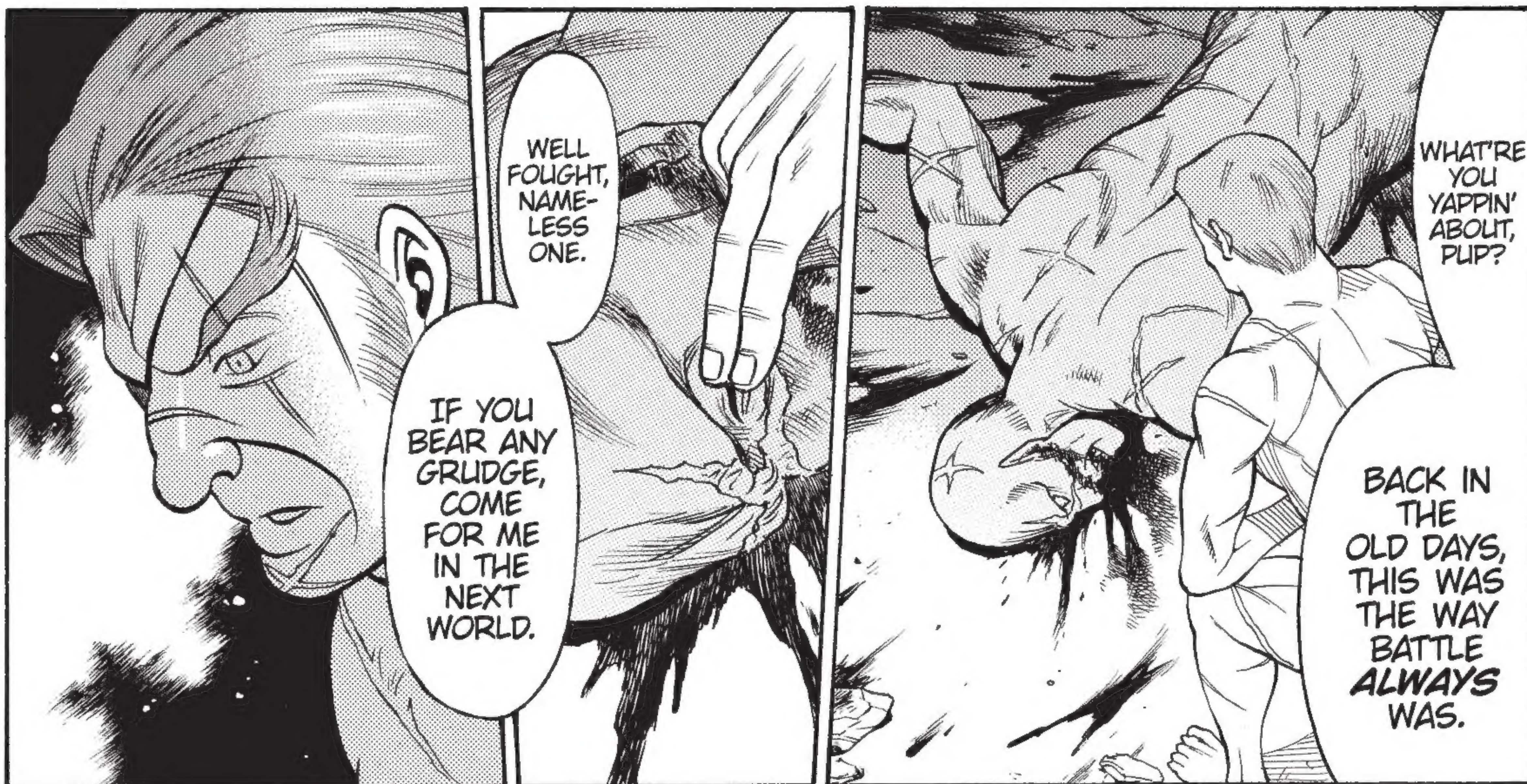
Appendix: Dance with the Vampire Maid

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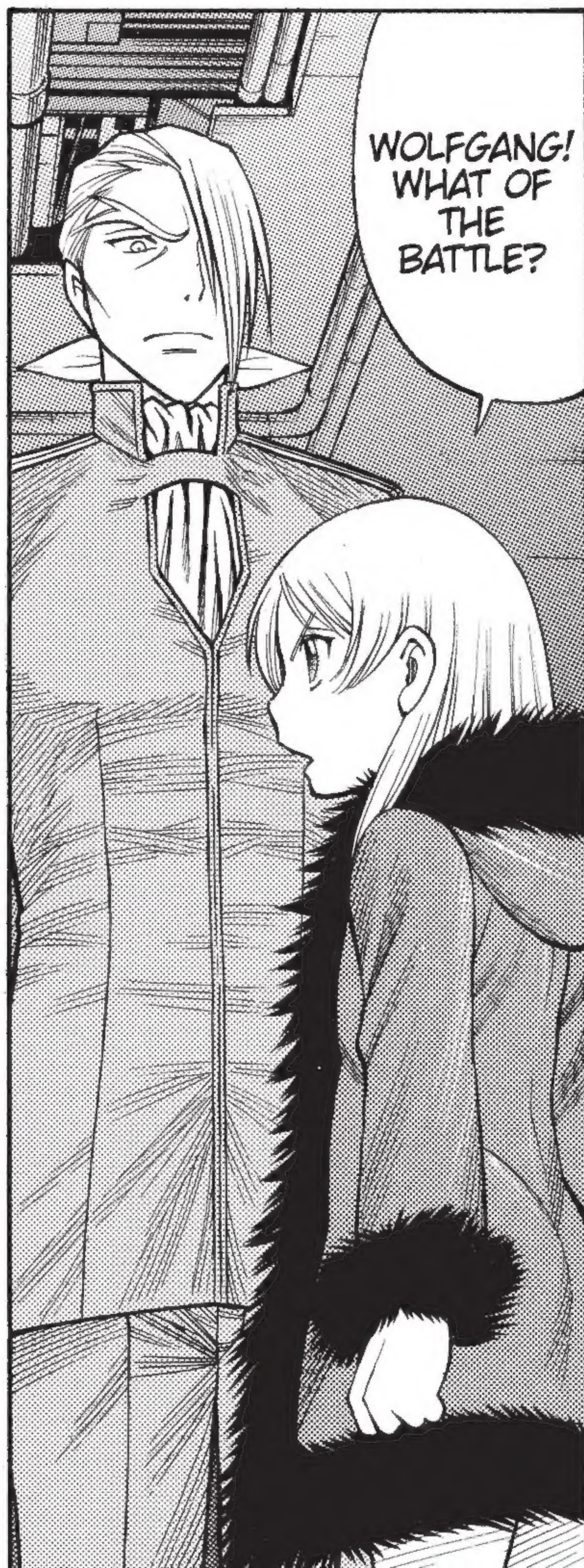
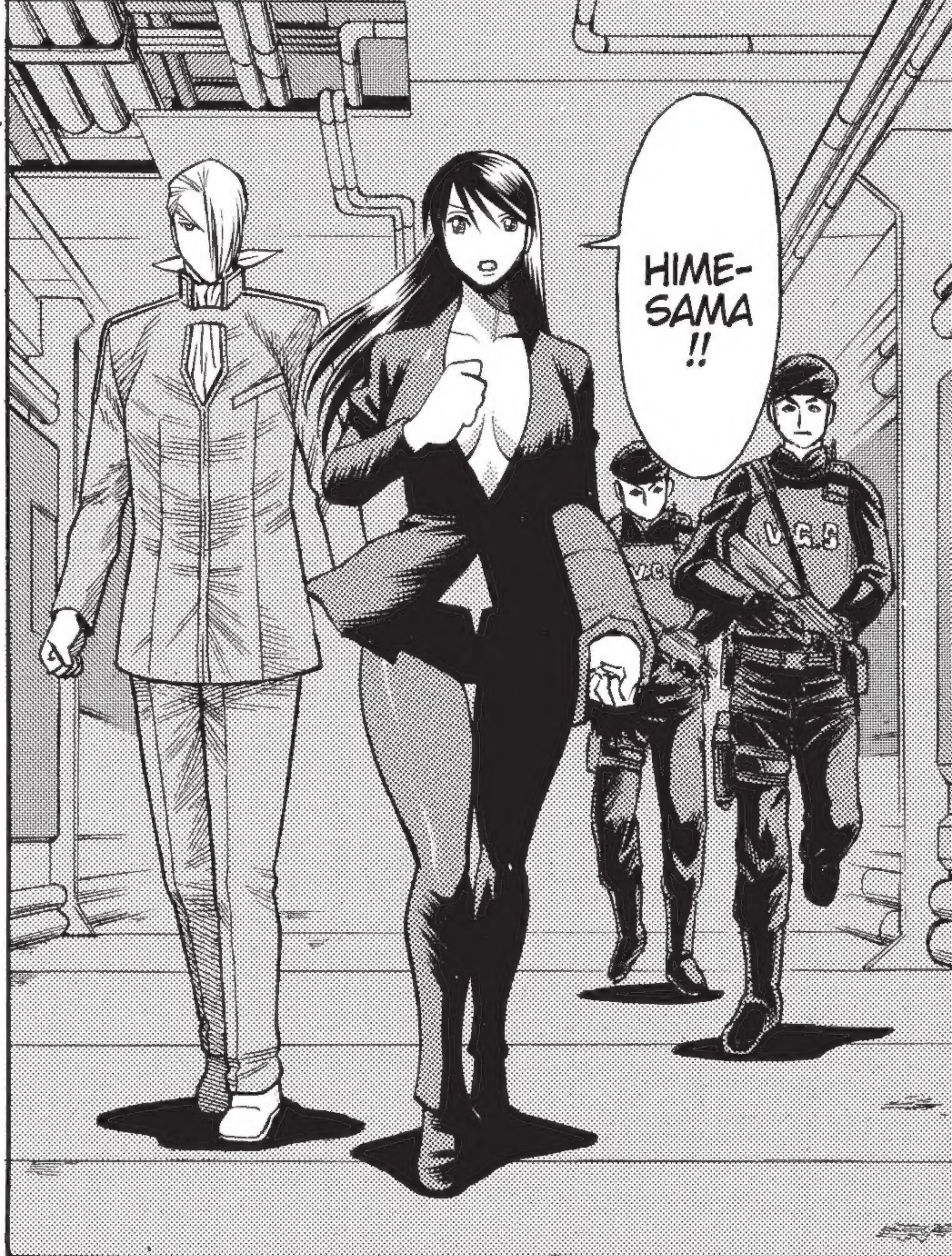
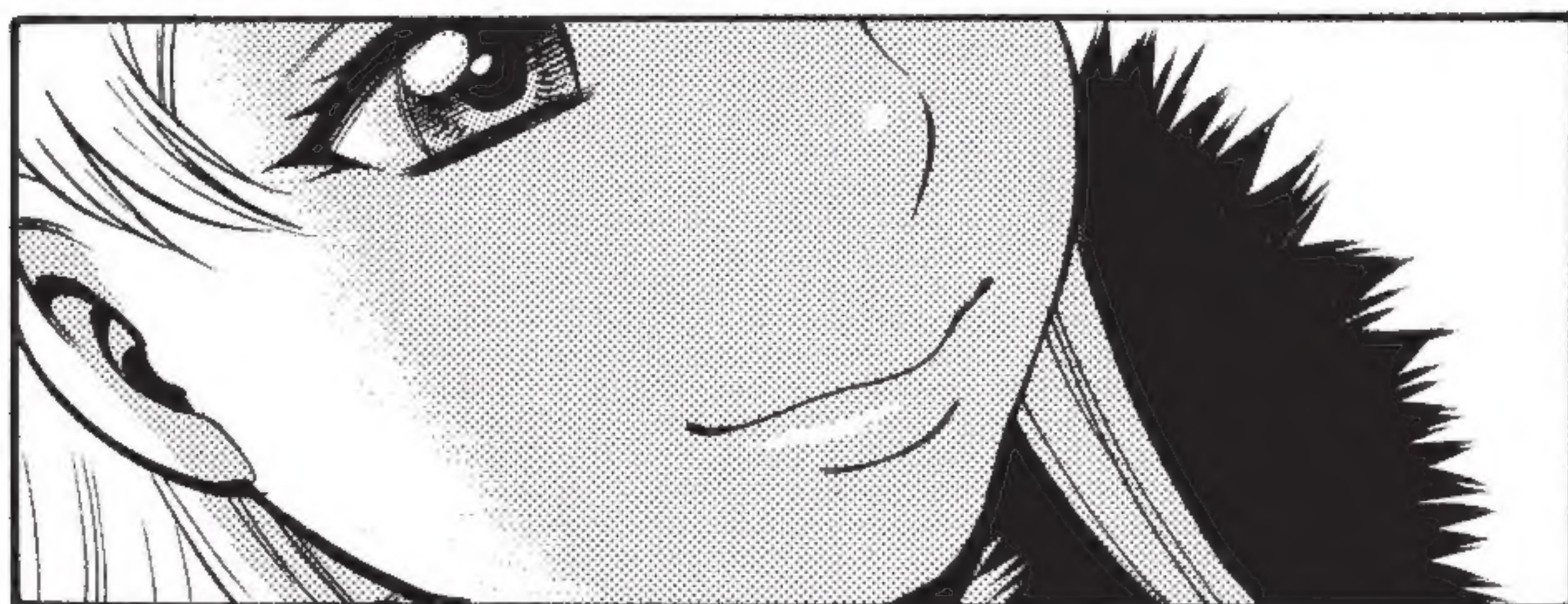
Chapter 54: Doppelgänger

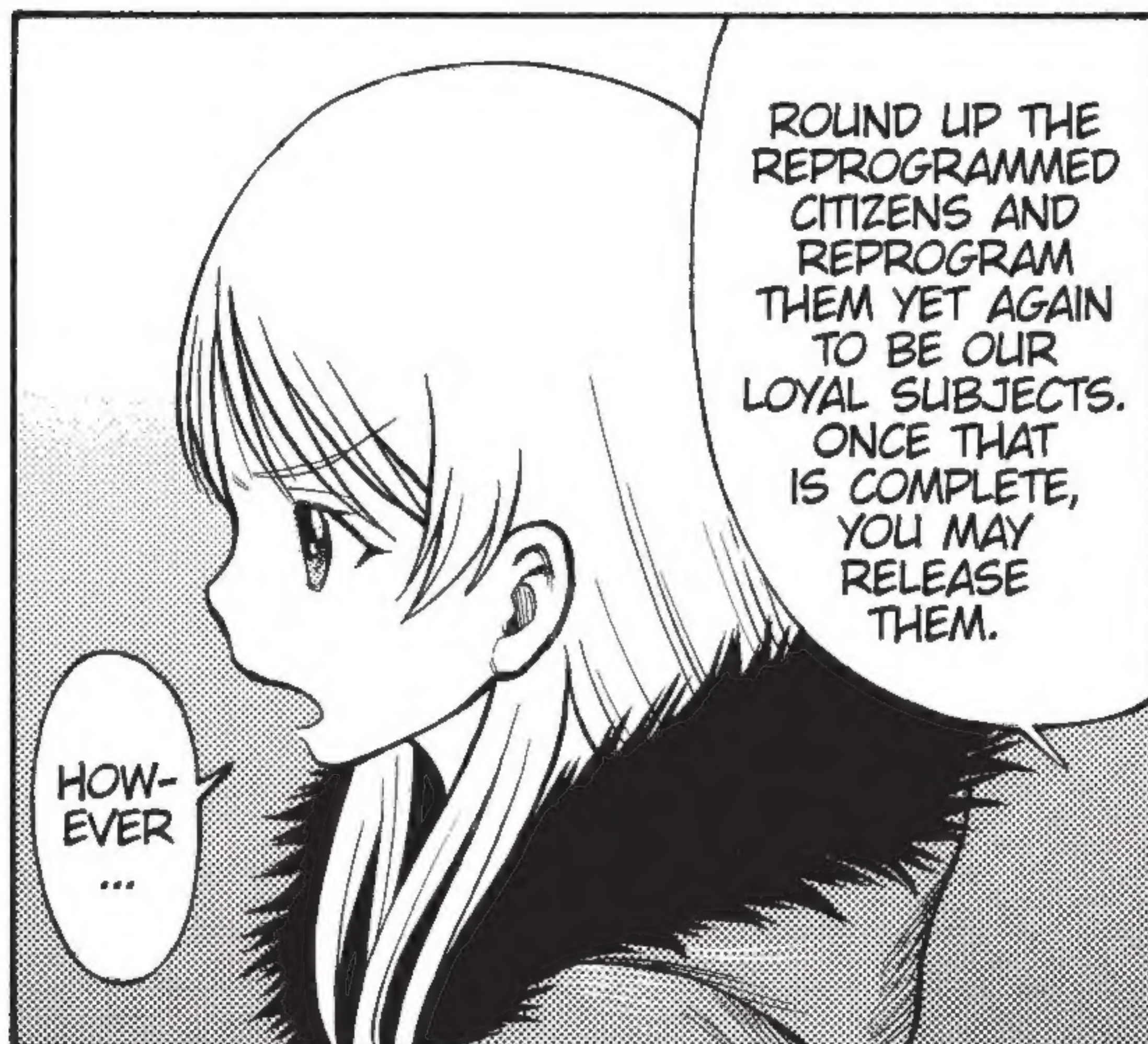


HER
MAJESTY
HAS
RETURNED
!!

YOUR
MAJESTY!

THERE
SHE IS!
YOUR
MAJESTY
!!





HOW-
EVER
...

ROUND UP THE
REPROGRAMMED
CITIZENS AND
REPROGRAM
THEM YET AGAIN
TO BE OUR
LOYAL SUBJECTS.
ONCE THAT
IS COMPLETE,
YOU MAY
RELEASE
THEM.



AS FOR
THE
COMMON
CITIZENS
WHO WERE
REPRO-
GRAMMED,
I BELIEVE
THAT IS
OBVIOUS
ENOUGH.

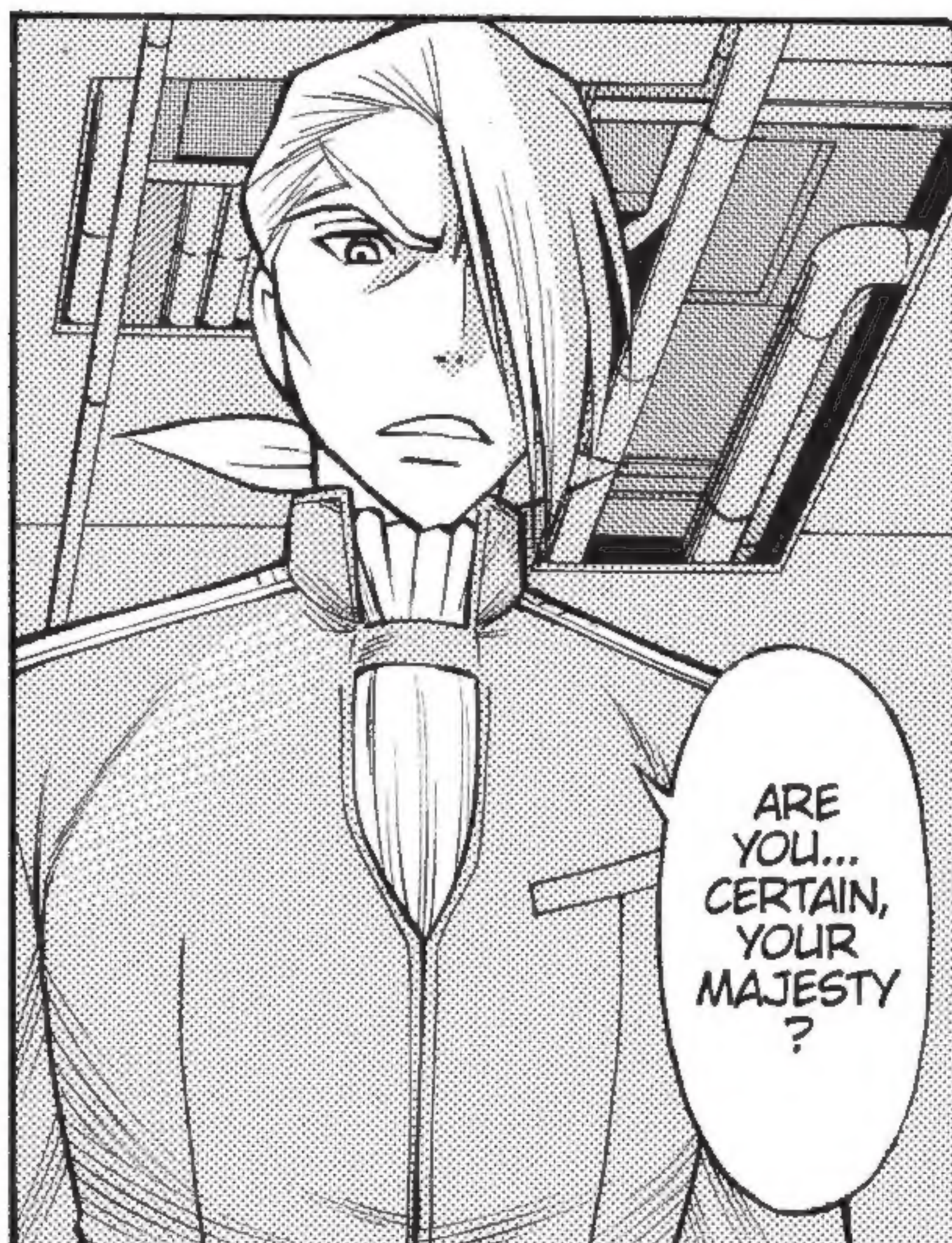
IVANOVIC'S
PERSONAL
GUARD
HAS LOST
ALL WILL
TO FIGHT.

THEY
HAVE
THROWN
DOWN
THEIR
WEAPONS
AND SUR-
RENDERED.

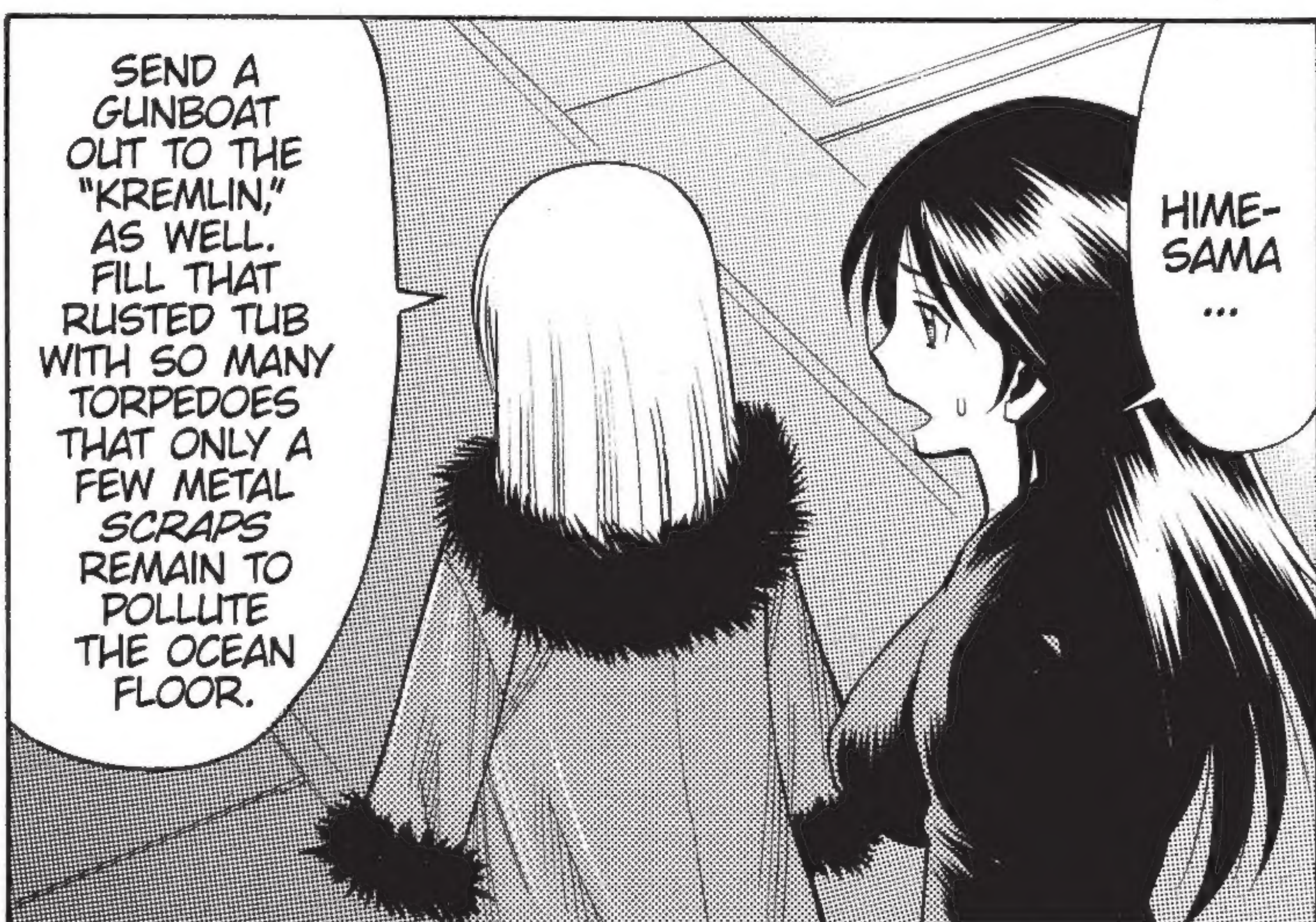


I WANT
EVERY
LAST ONE
OF THEM
TURNED
TO ASH
BEFORE
THE HOUR
IS OUT!

THERE WILL
BE NO SUCH
MERCY FOR
IVANOVIC'S
LACKEYS.
KILL THEM!



ARE
YOU...
CERTAIN,
YOUR
MAJESTY
?



HIME-
SAMA
...

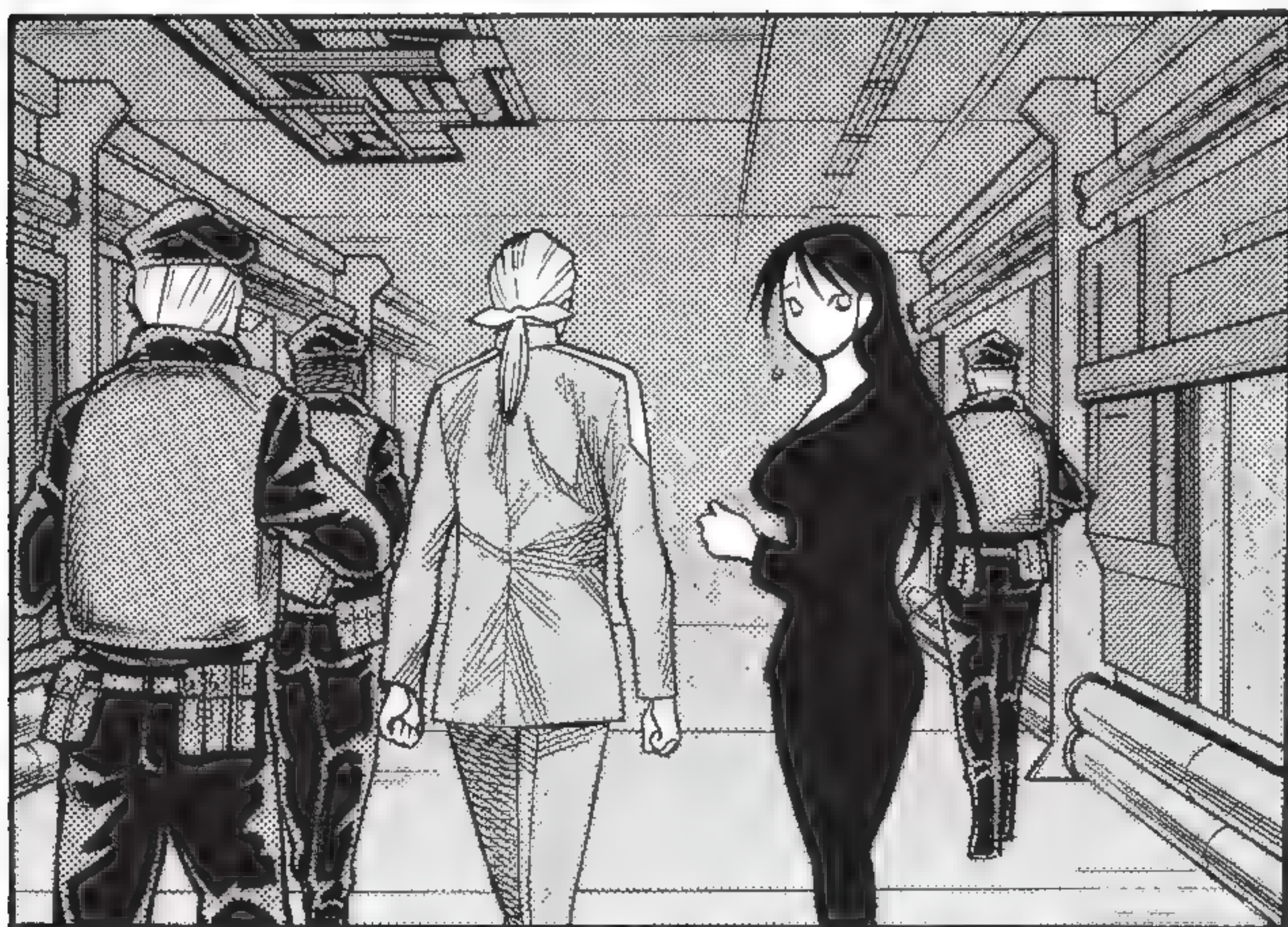
SEND A
GUNBOAT
OUT TO THE
"KREMLIN,"
AS WELL.
FILL THAT
RUSTED TUB
WITH SO MANY
TORPEDOES
THAT ONLY A
FEW METAL
SCRAPS
REMAIN TO
POLLUTE
THE OCEAN
FLOOR.



DID YOU NOT HEAR ME? GO!



HIME-SAMA ...



DO IT!

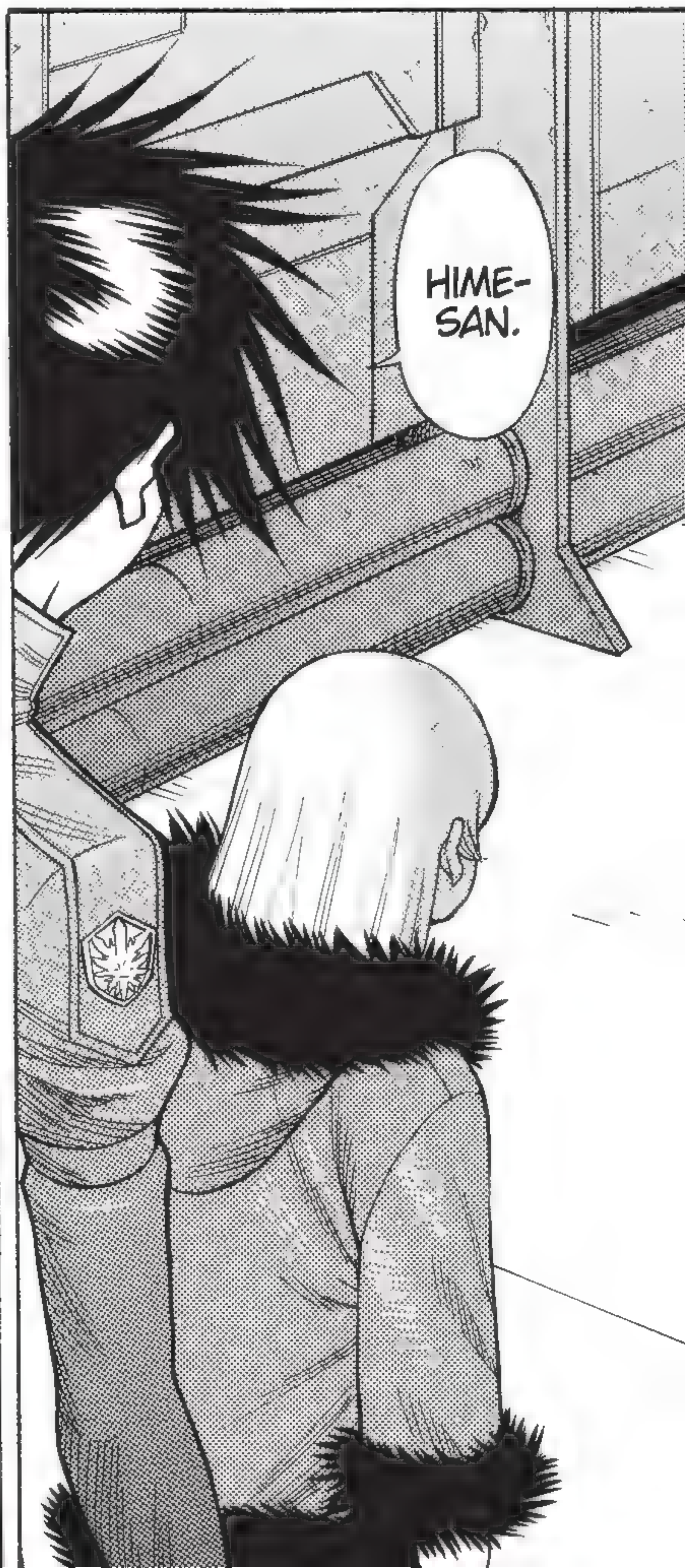
I DO NOT KNOW WHY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WOULD CHOOSE TO TURN A WILLFULLY BLIND EYE TO THE INVASION OF MY BLIND, BUT NOW WE MUST SHOW THEM EXACTLY WHAT SUCH SHORTSIGHTED FOOLISHNESS WILL LEAD THEM TO!



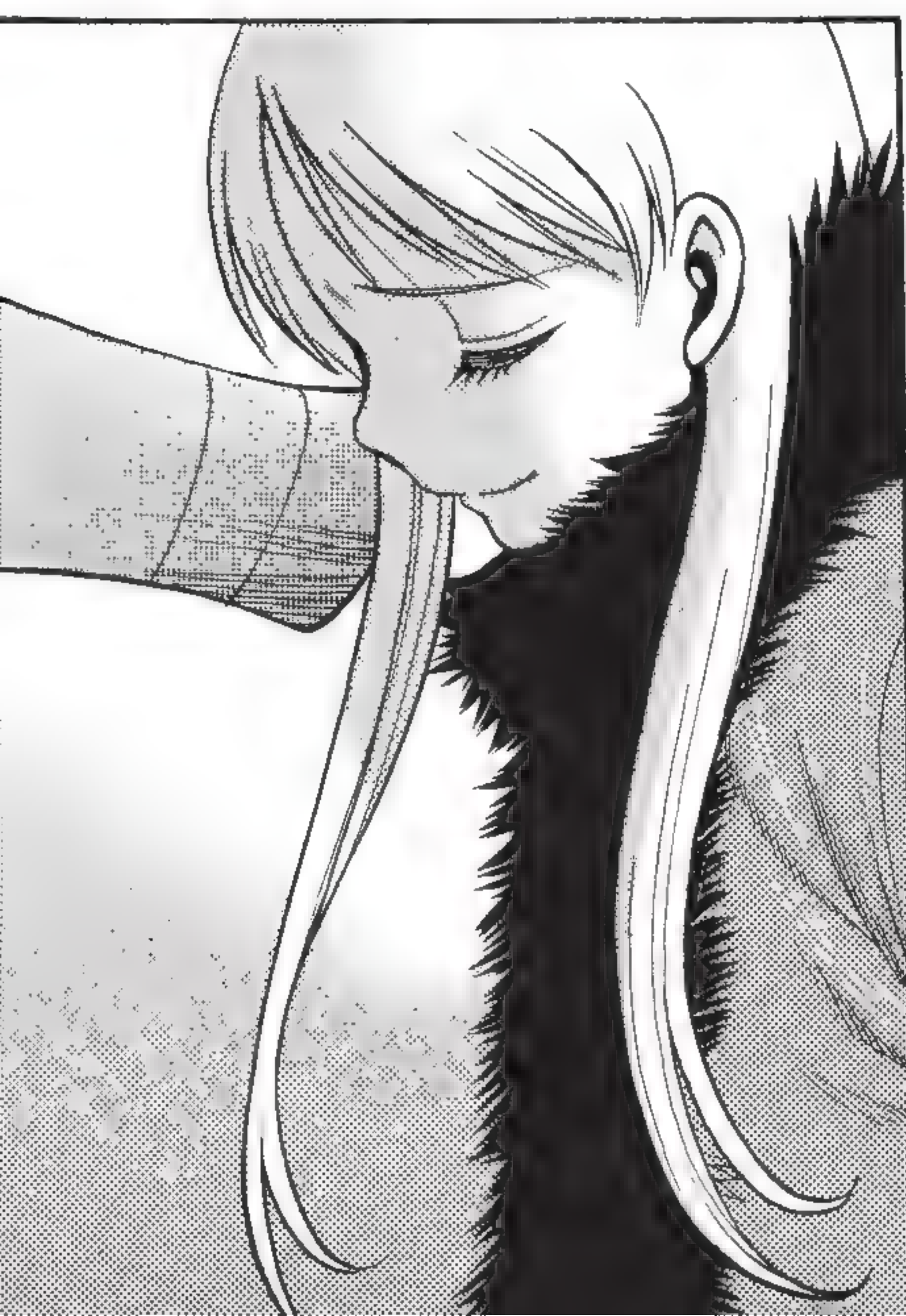
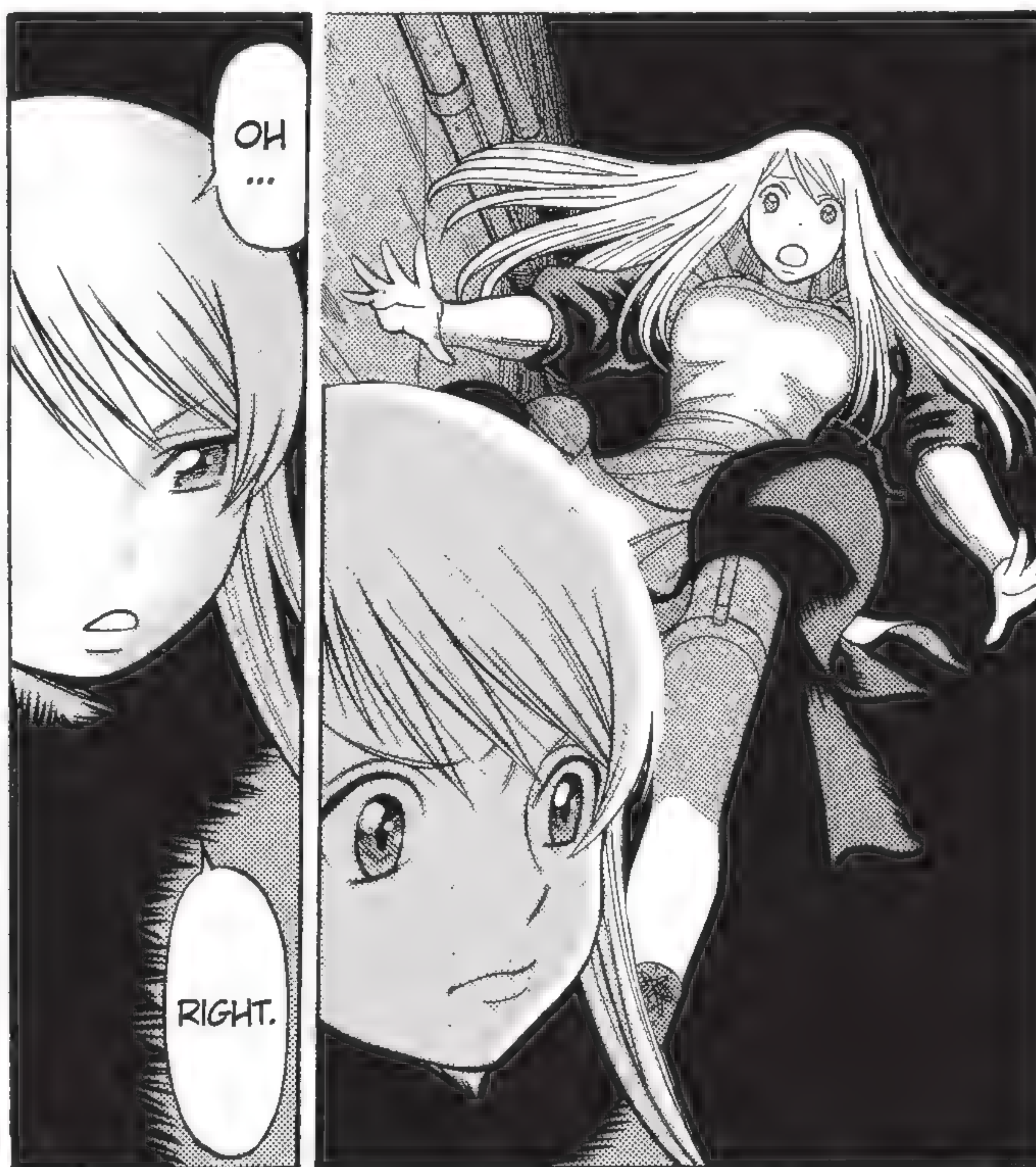
EH ...?



YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T BLAME YOURSELF SO MUCH, Y'KNOW.



HIME-SAN.





BUT NEVER
MIND
ABOUT
ME...

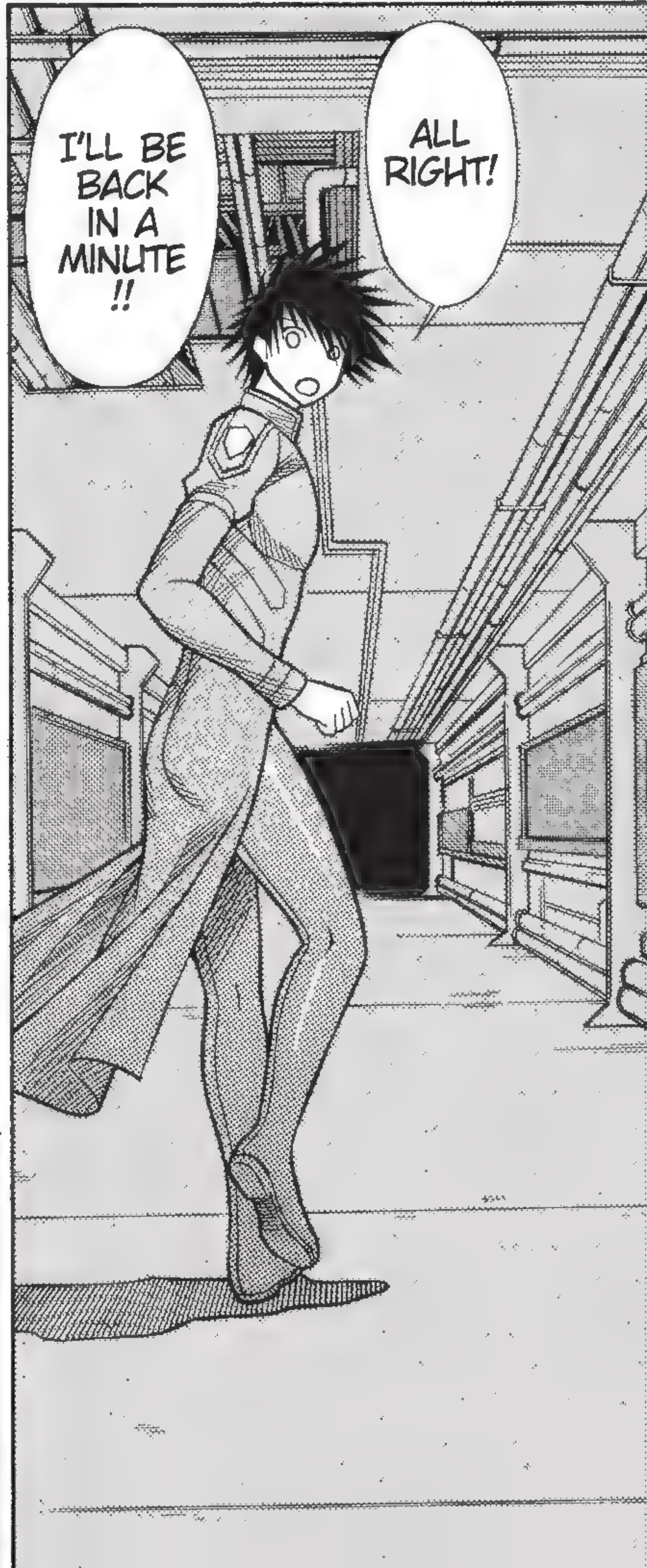
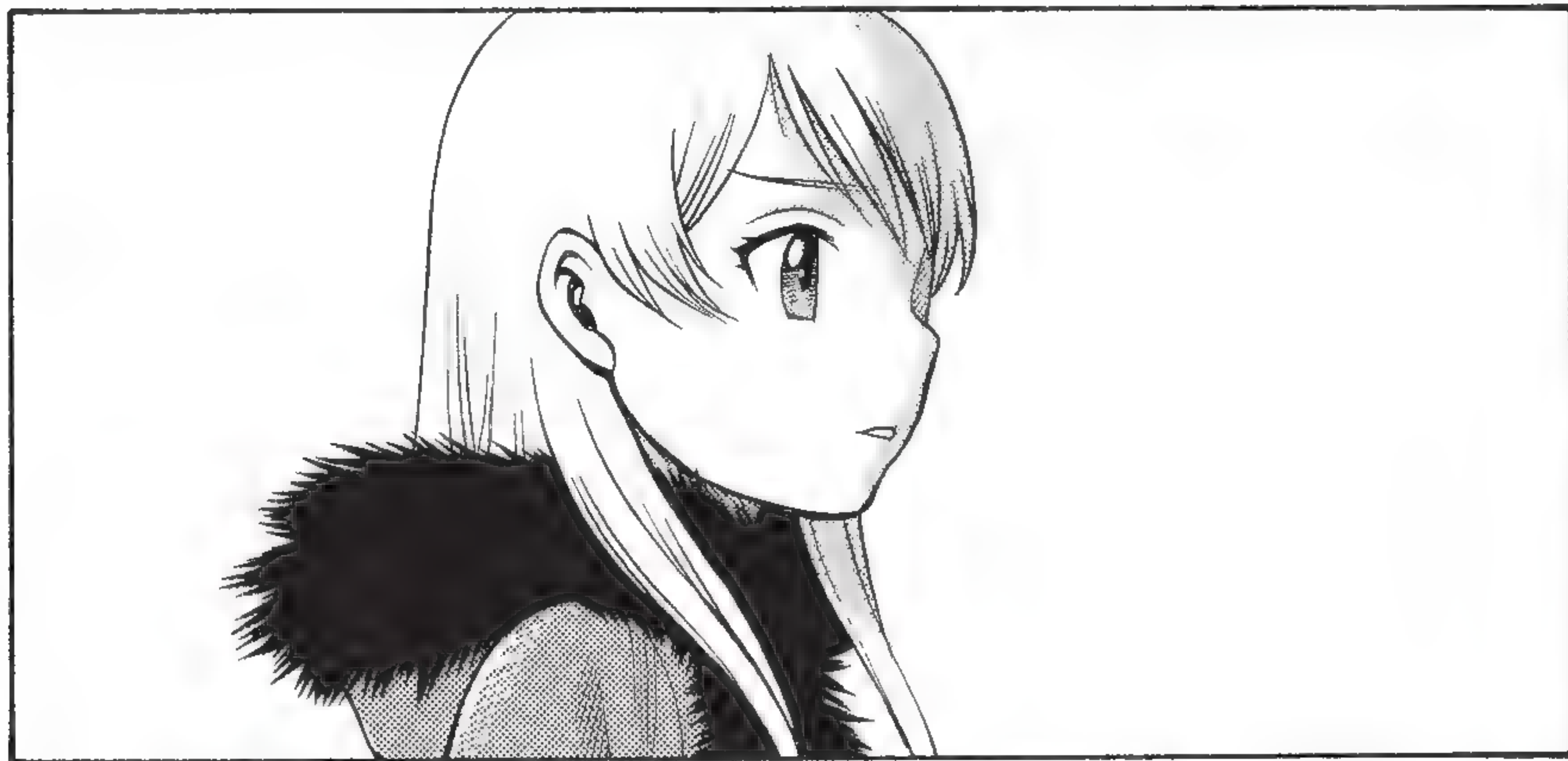
HUH
...?

WHY
DON'T YOU...
ER... YES!
THAT'S RIGHT!
YUKI.
I'M WORRIED
ABOUT HOW
SHE IS DOING.
GO CHECK
ON HER,
WOULD YOU?



YOU
ARE
VERY
KIND.

AKIRA.



I'LL BE
BACK
IN A
MINUTE
!!

ALL
RIGHT!



YOUR
MAJ-
ESTY.

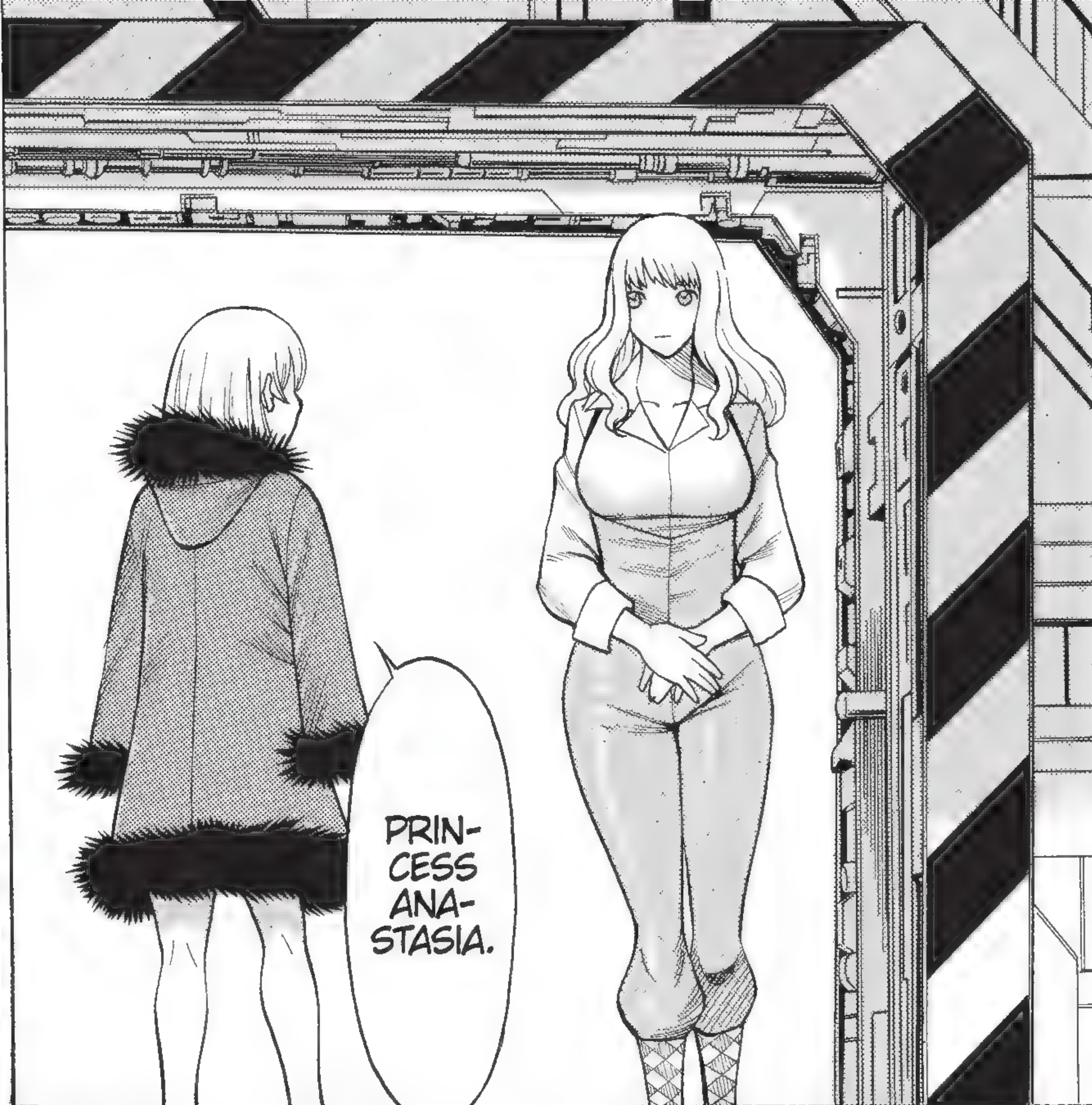


NOT
BAD,
MINA-
HIME.
NOT
BAD,
AT ALL.

WELL,
WELL...
AREN'T
YOU
THE CUTE
LITTLE
WOLF-
BOY?



WELL...?
HAS
IVANOVIC
BREATHED
HIS
LAST?



PRIN-
CESS
ANA-
STASIA.



A TRUE-
BLOODED
VAMPIRE'S
WILL TO CLING
TO LIFE CAN
REACH SOME
TRULY EYE-
OPENING
LEVELS OF
OBSTINACY.

UNSUR-
PRISING.

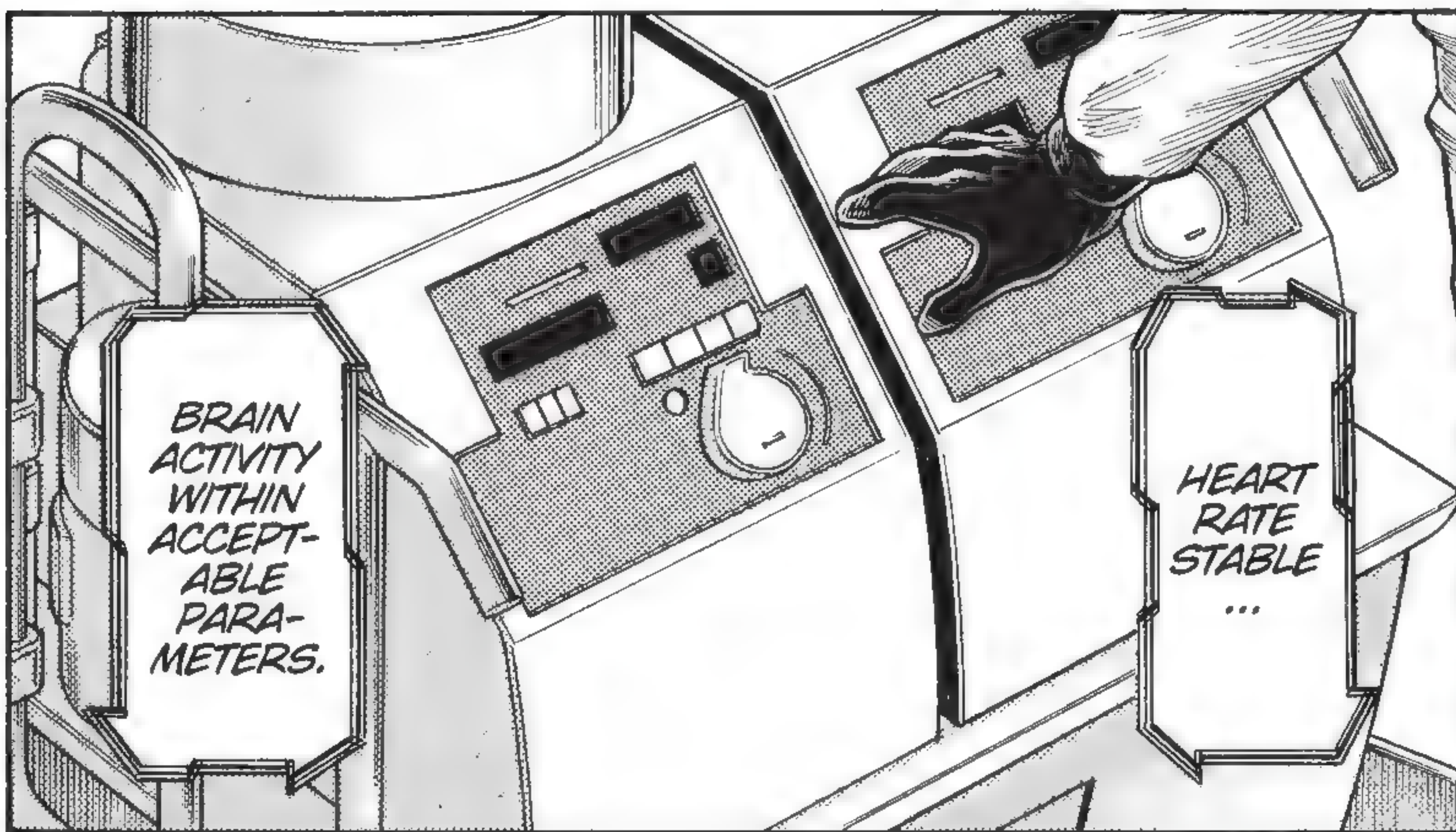
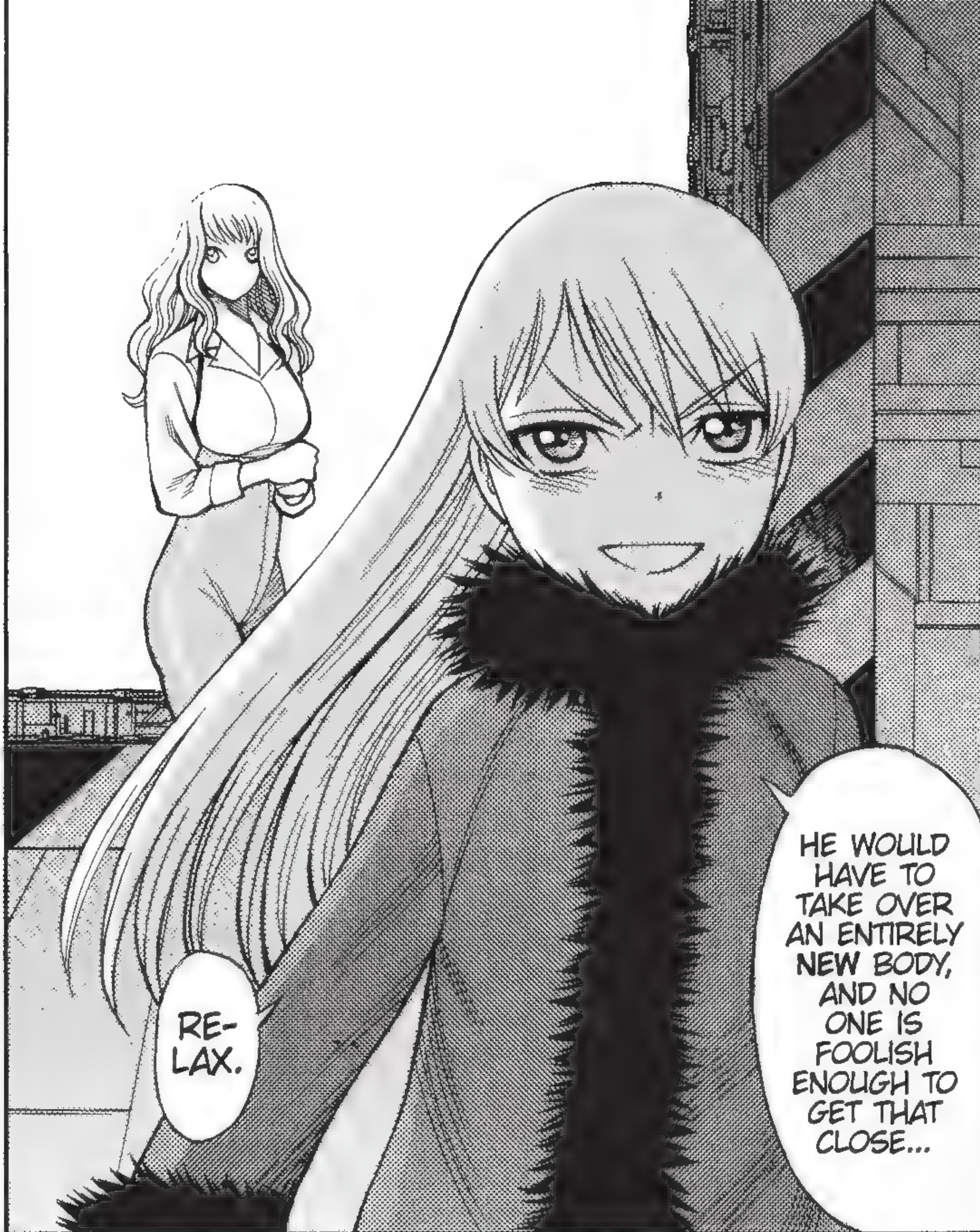
NOT YET...
IT IS
EXTREMELY
FAINT,
BUT HE
DOES YET
HAVE A
PULSE...



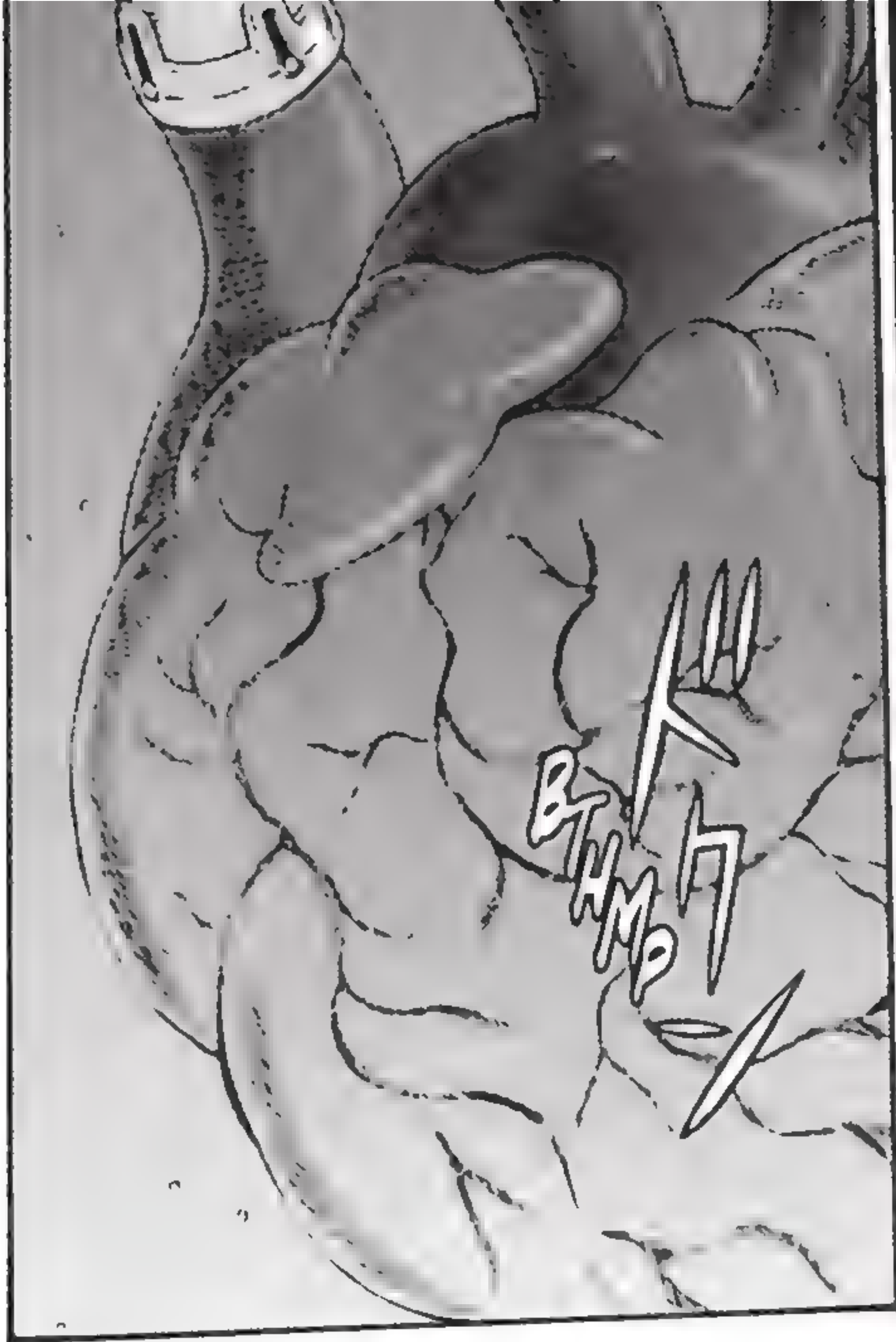
ALL WHILE
HE IS LITTLE
MORE THAN
A BRAIN IN
A JAR...
HELPLESS
TO DO
ANYTHING
ABOUT IT.

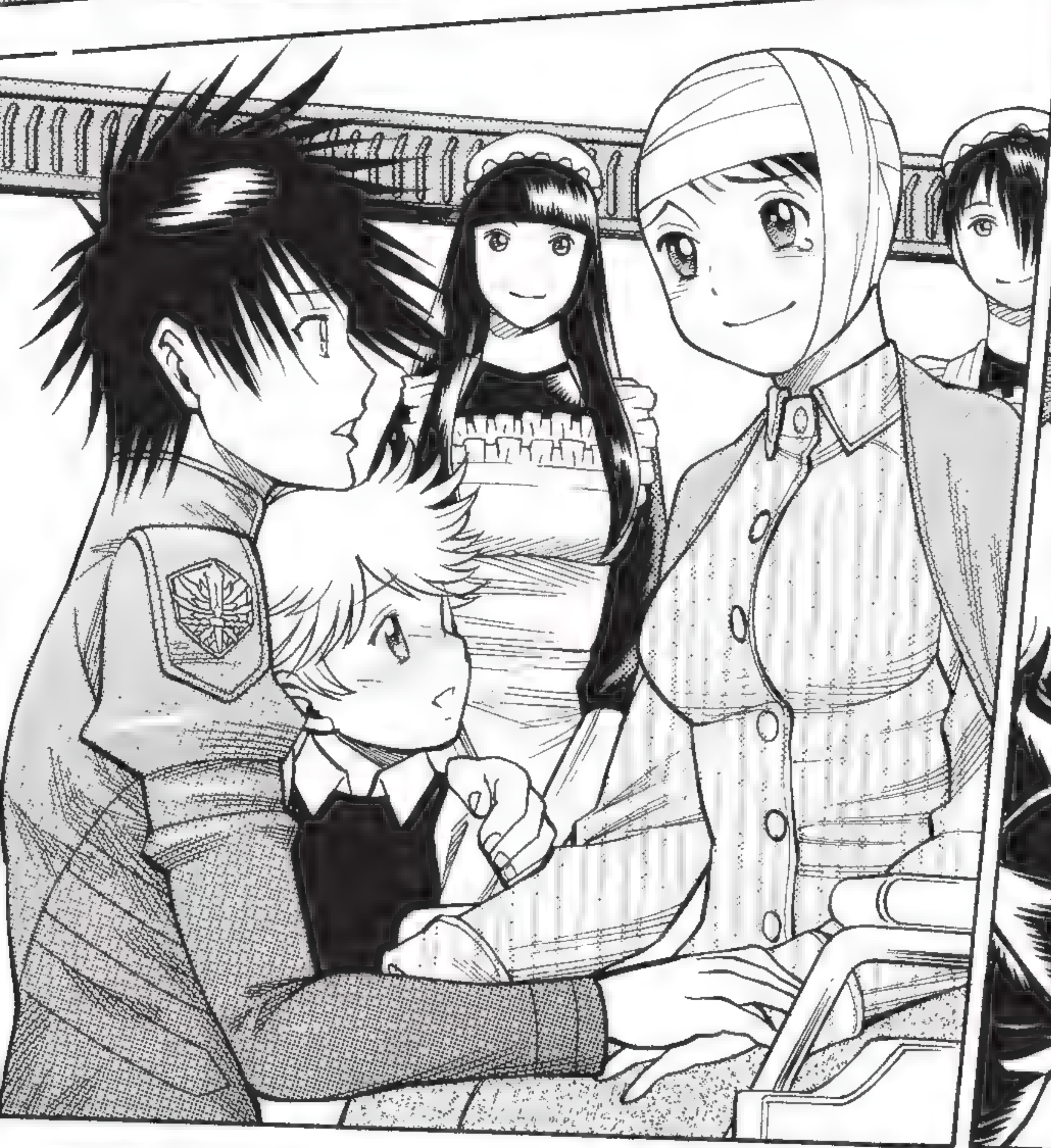
IMMERSE
THEM IN
CULTURE FLUID,
AND HOOK THEM
UP SO THAT
HE STAYS ALIVE.
I'LL HAVE
HIM WATCH
HIS EMPIRE
CRUMBLE INTO
DUST...

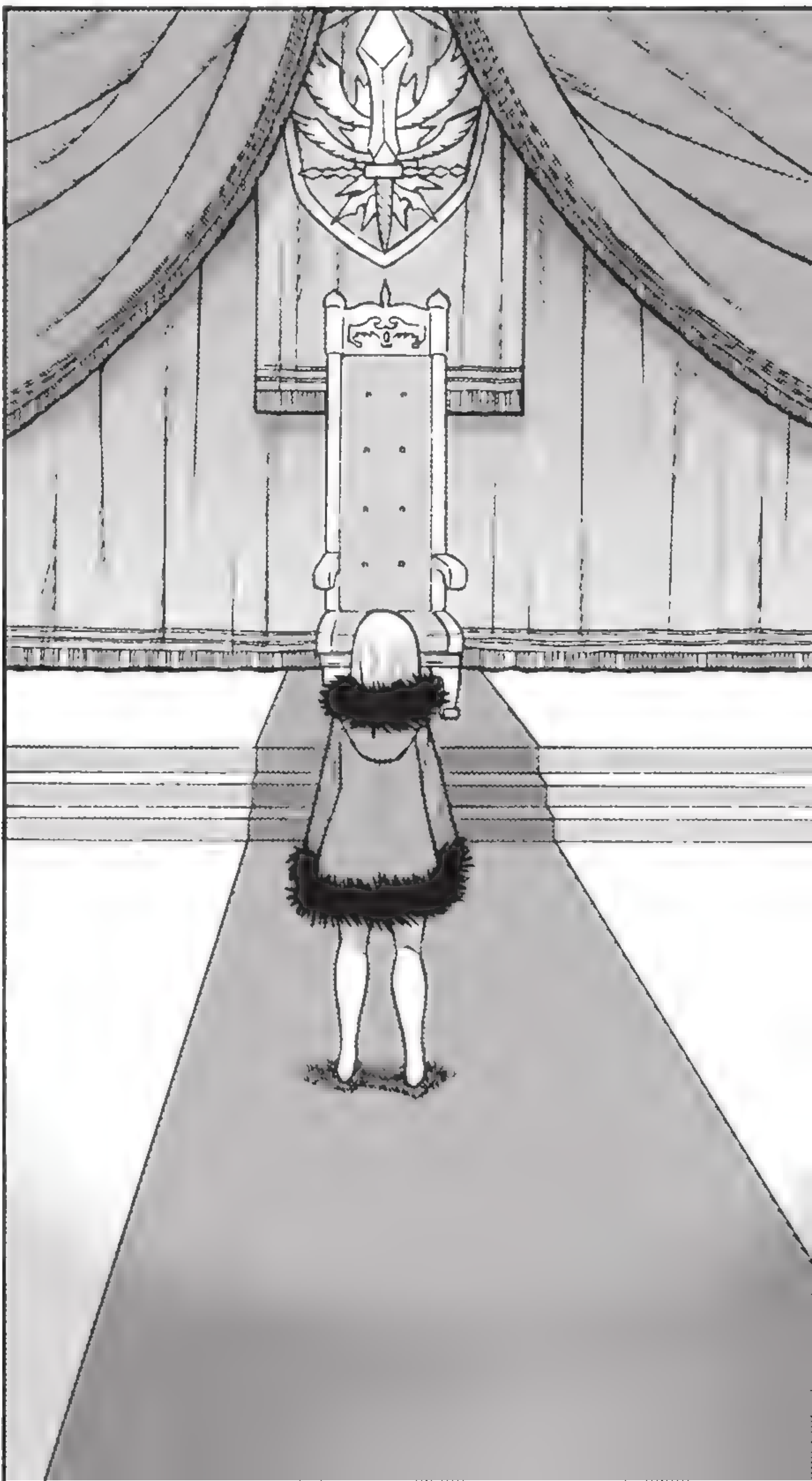
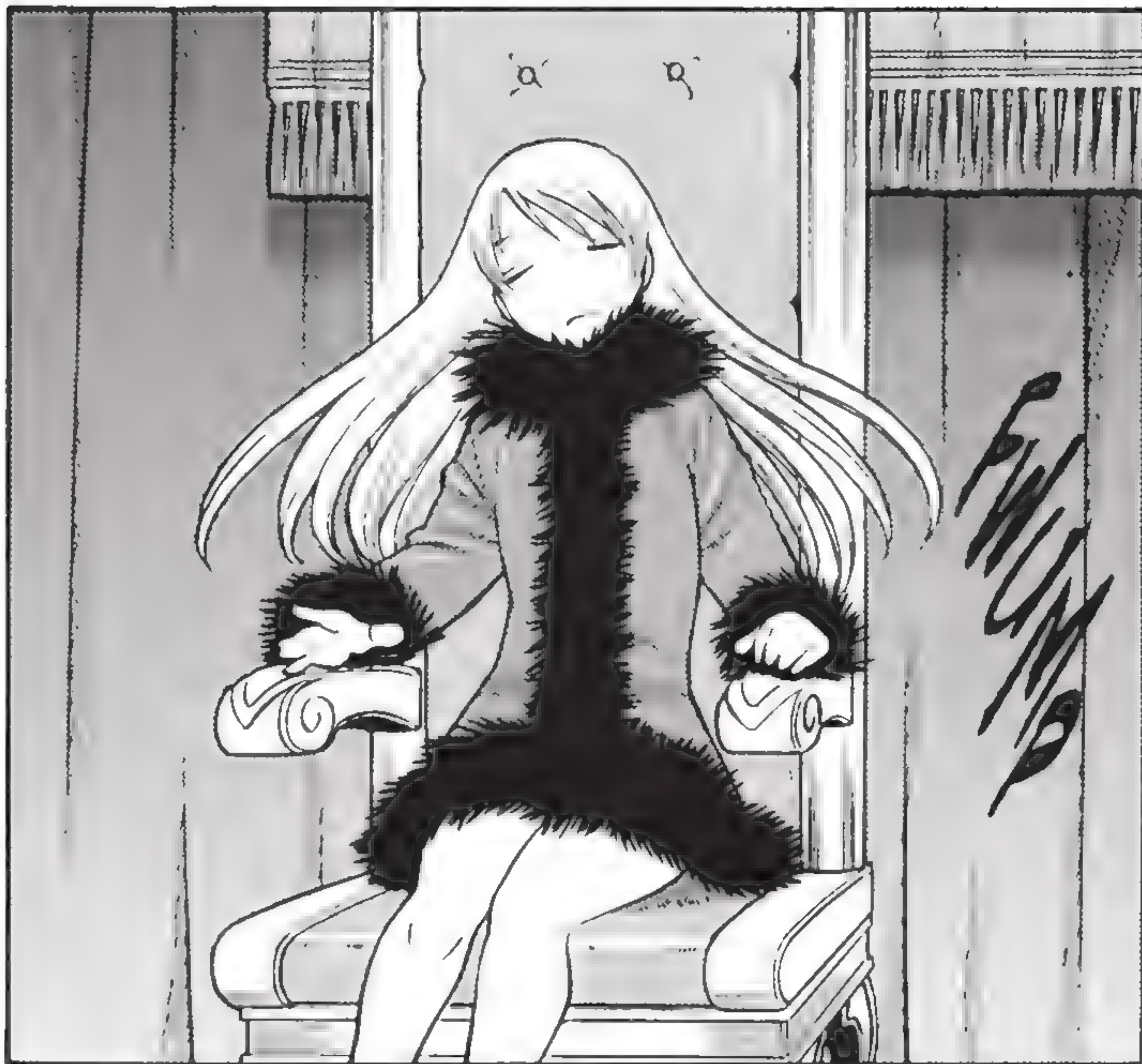
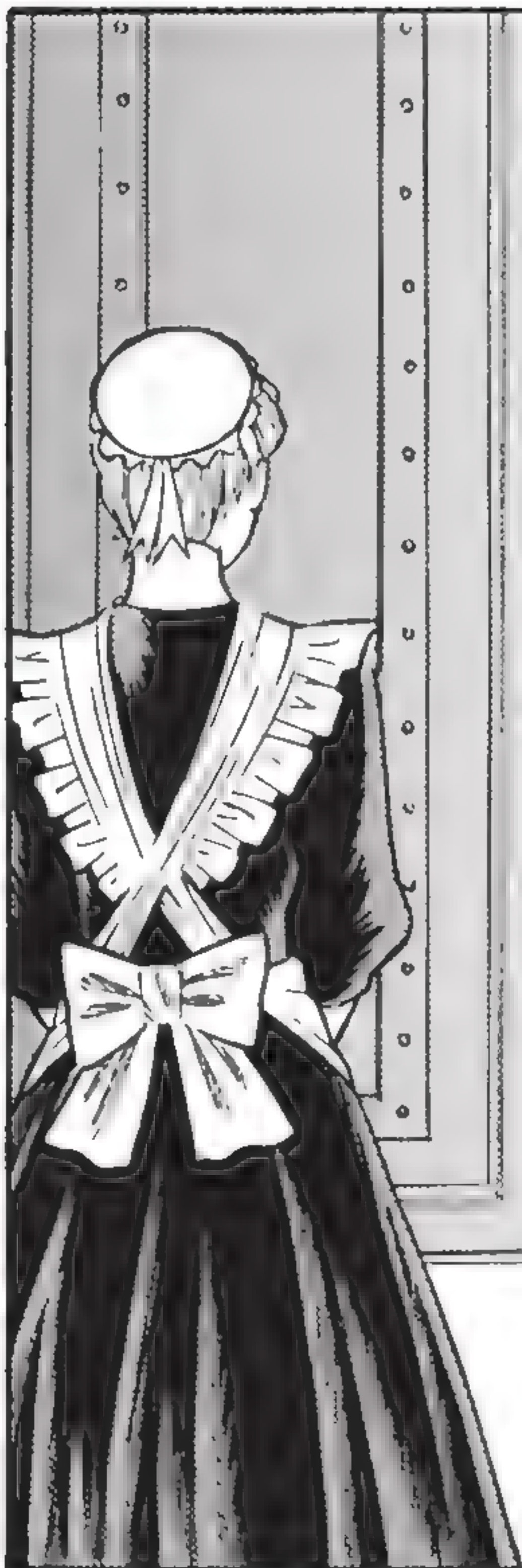
BUT THAT
IS JUST
AS WELL.
WHILE
HE STILL
LIVES,
HAVE HIS
BRAIN AND
HEART
REMOVED.











KREAK



NOW...

AH
HA
HA
HA
HA
!!

HA
HA
HA...

AHA
HA
HA
HA!

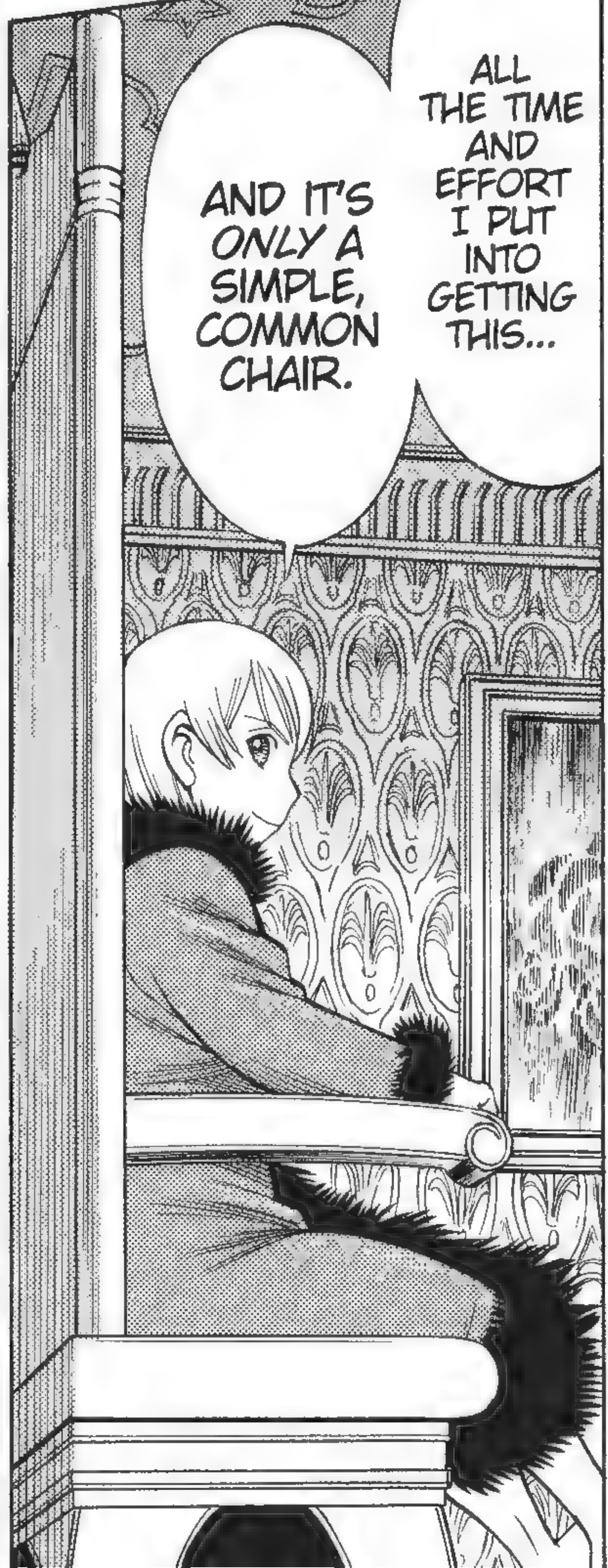
WHERE,
OH
WHERE,
SHALL I
BEGIN?

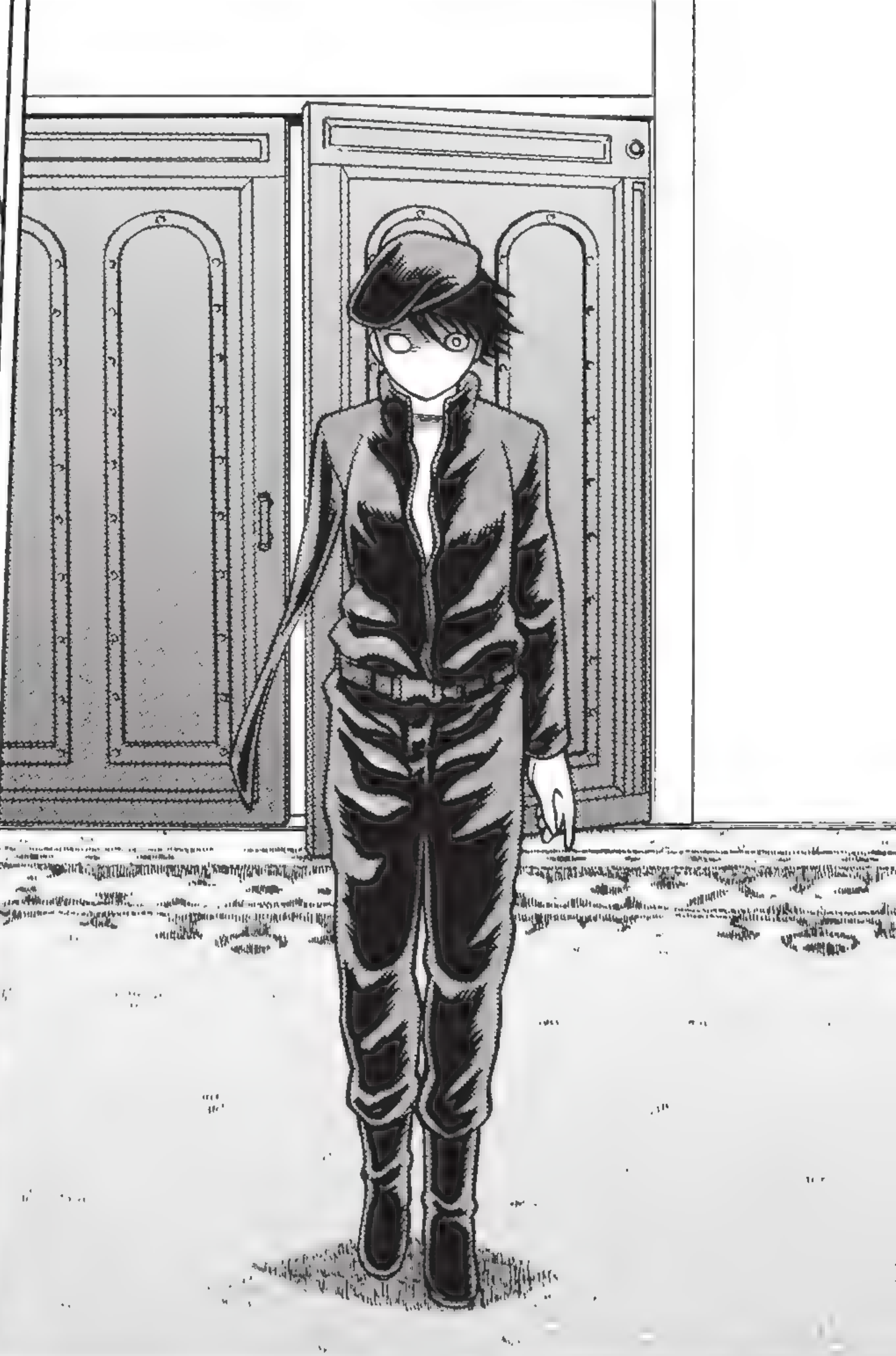
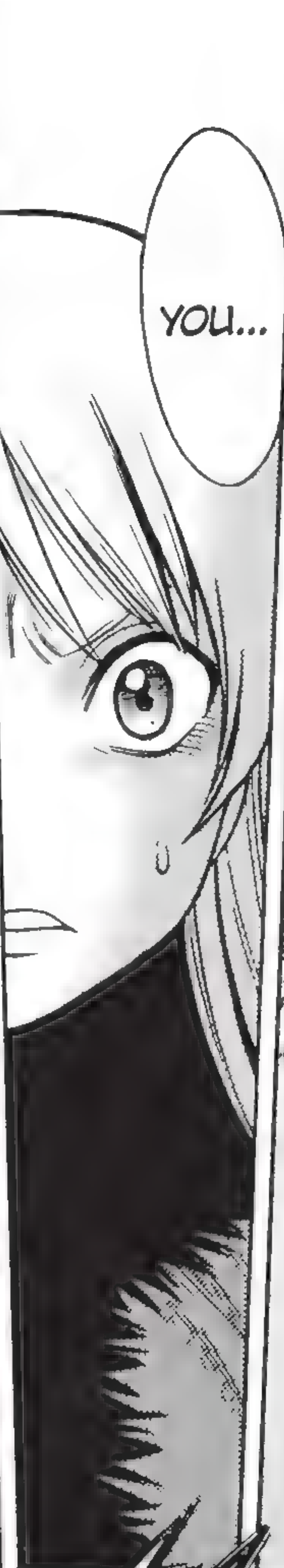
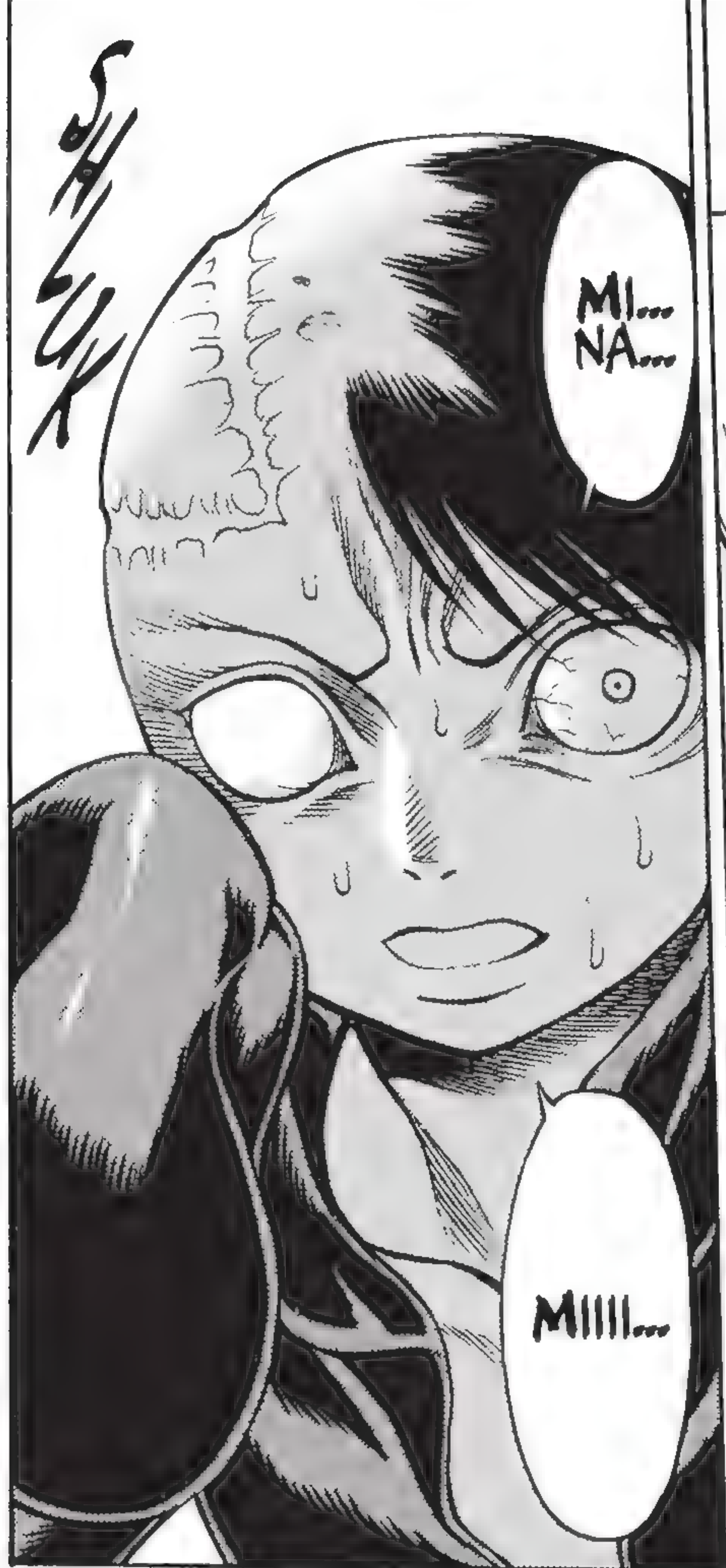
AH,
WELL.
WHAT I
TRULY
WANTED
WASN'T
THIS
BIT OF
UPHOL-
STERY.

IT WAS
MINA'S
POWER
AND
INFLUENCE.

AND IT'S
ONLY A
SIMPLE,
COMMON
CHAIR.

ALL
THE TIME
AND
EFFORT
I PUT
INTO
GETTING
THIS...





I V A N O V I C !!

GRIK

GRIK

!

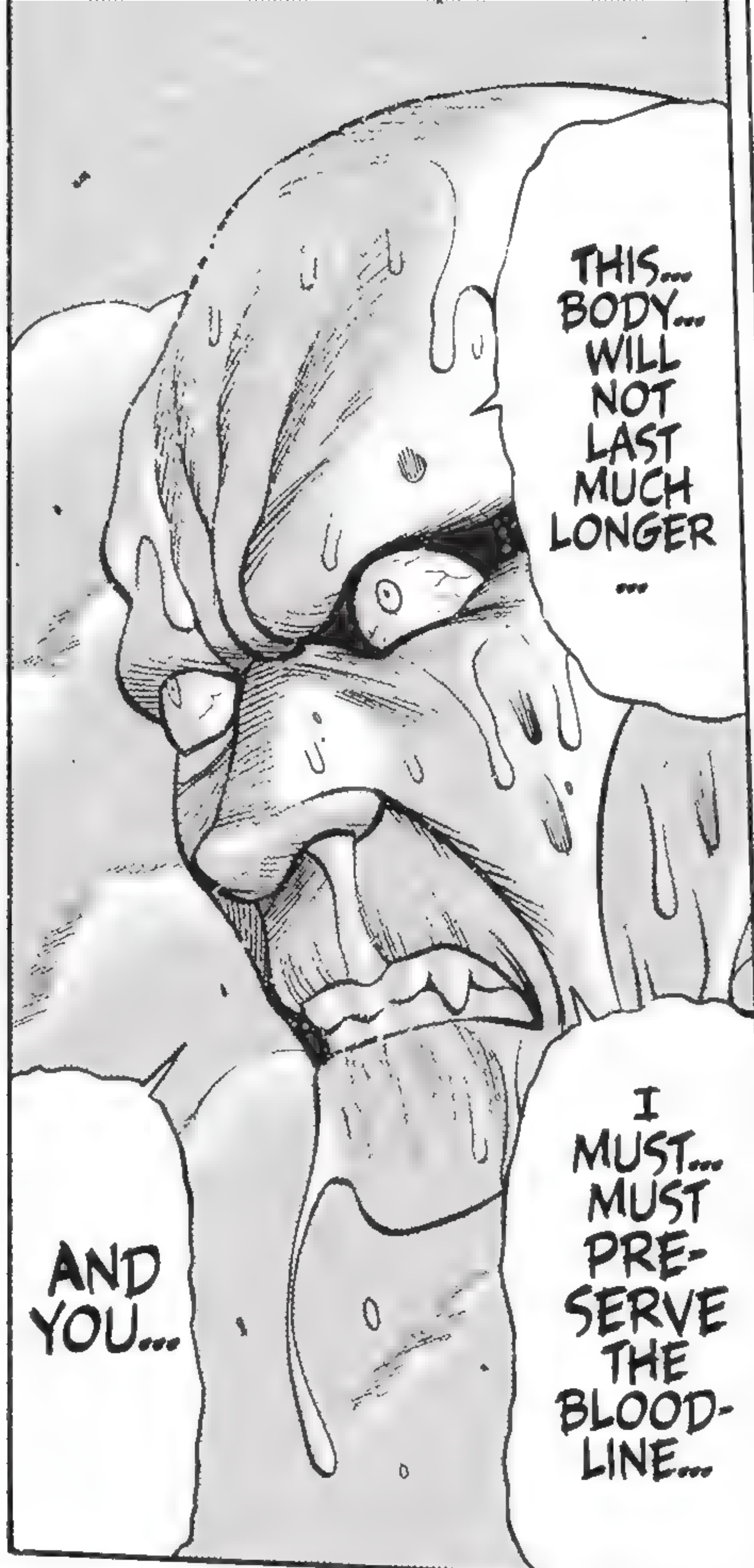
I HAD
HEARD
OF THE
POWER
OF THAT
NEW
BREED
OF
YOURS.

I MUST
ADMIT,
THIS IS
ONE VERY
CREATIVE
USE
FOR IT.

SO
THAT'S
WHAT
YOU
DID...

I
SEE.

YOU
ABSORBED
HIS BRAIN
AND HEART
INTO YOUR
OWN
FLESH!!



THIS...
BODY...
WILL
NOT
LAST
MUCH
LONGER
...

AND
YOU...

I
MUST...
MUST
PRE-
SERVE
THE
BLOOD-
LINE...



HEY, THERE.
JUST WHAT
DO YOU
THINK YOU
ARE DOING,
EXPOSING
YOURSELF
TO A LADY?

YOU
WOULDN'T
DARE DO
SOMETHING
THAT
LINCOUTH,
NOW
WOULD
YOU?



YOU
WILL
BEAR
MY
SEED
!!!



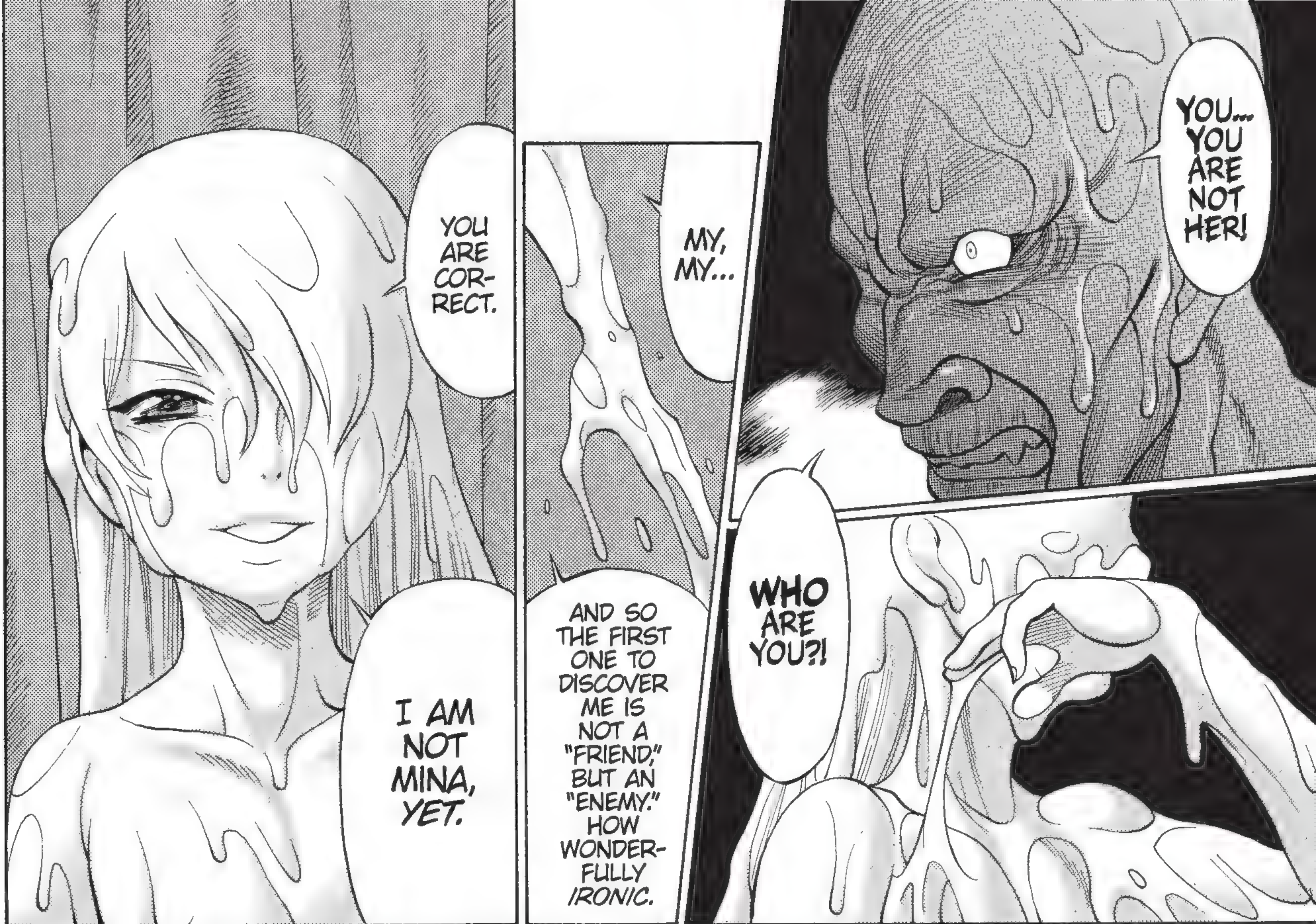
AH
AHUH



GRAAAH

GHAH

AAH



YOU
ARE
COR-
RECT.

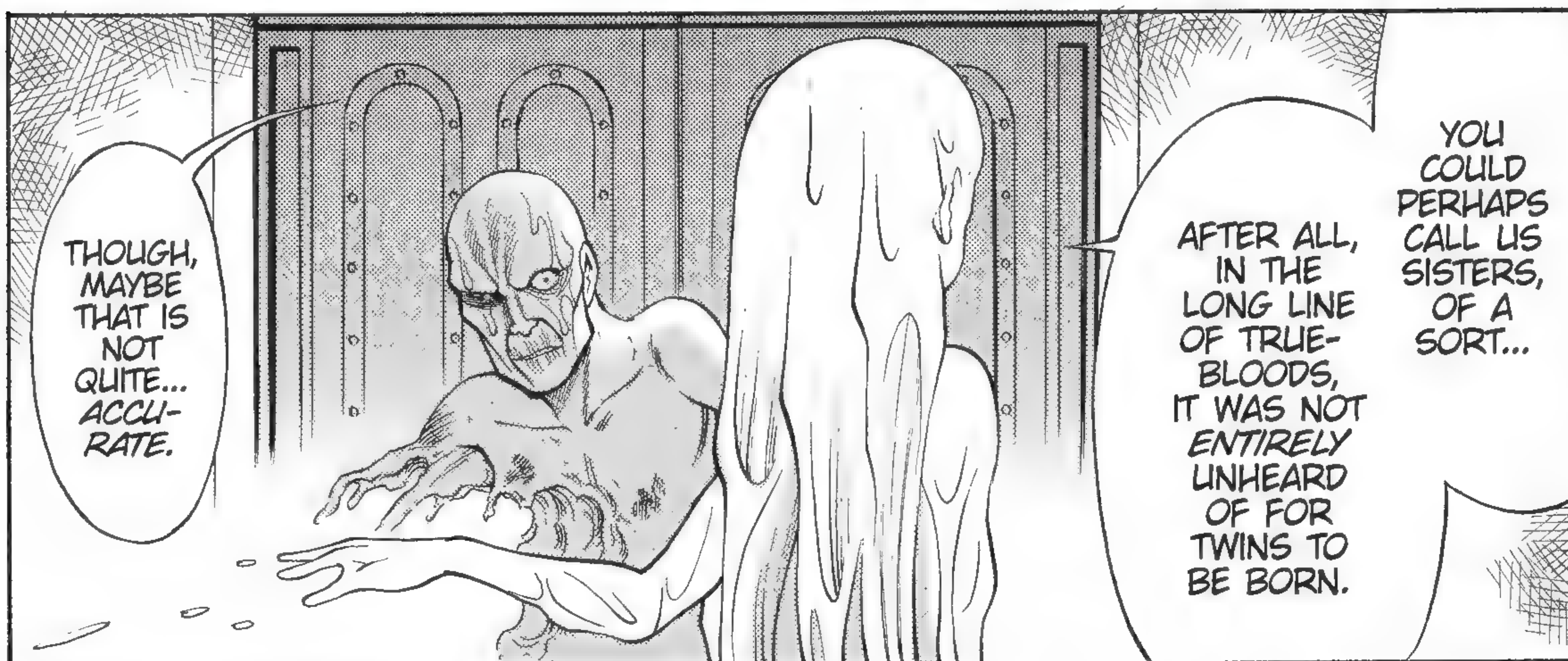
MY,
MY...

YOU...
YOU
ARE
NOT
HER!

I AM
NOT
MINA,
YET.

AND SO
THE FIRST
ONE TO
DISCOVER
ME IS
NOT A
"FRIEND,"
BUT AN
"ENEMY."
HOW
WONDER-
FULLY
IRONIC.

WHO
ARE
YOU?!



THOUGH,
MAYBE
THAT IS
NOT
QUITE...
ACCU-
RATE.

AFTER ALL,
IN THE
LONG LINE
OF TRUE-
BLOODS,
IT WAS NOT
ENTIRELY
UNHEARD
OF FOR
TWINS TO
BE BORN.

YOU
COULD
PERHAPS
CALL US
SISTERS,
OF A
SORT...



HAR-
LOT...!

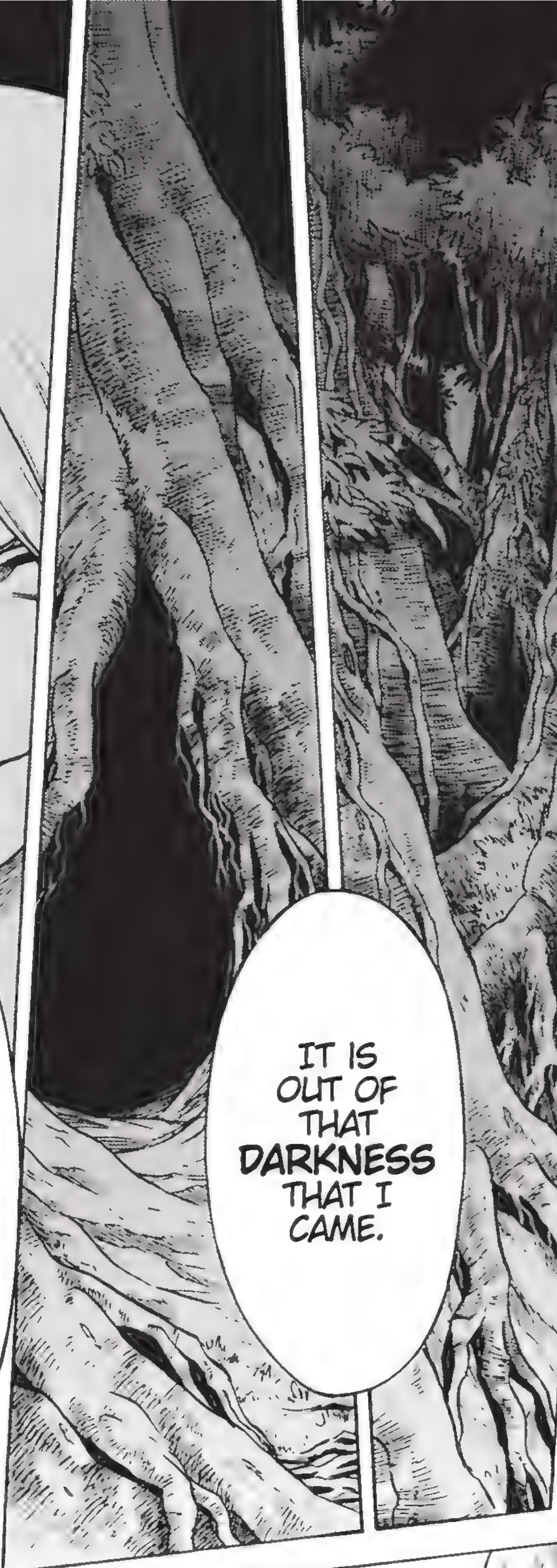
I DID
HEAR THAT
ONE OF THE
THREE GREAT
CLANS IS
WORKING ON
PERFECTING
THAT
TECHNOLOGY
EVEN NOW,
YOU
KNOW...

PERHAPS
THEN,
YOU
COULD
CALL
ME A
CLONE.

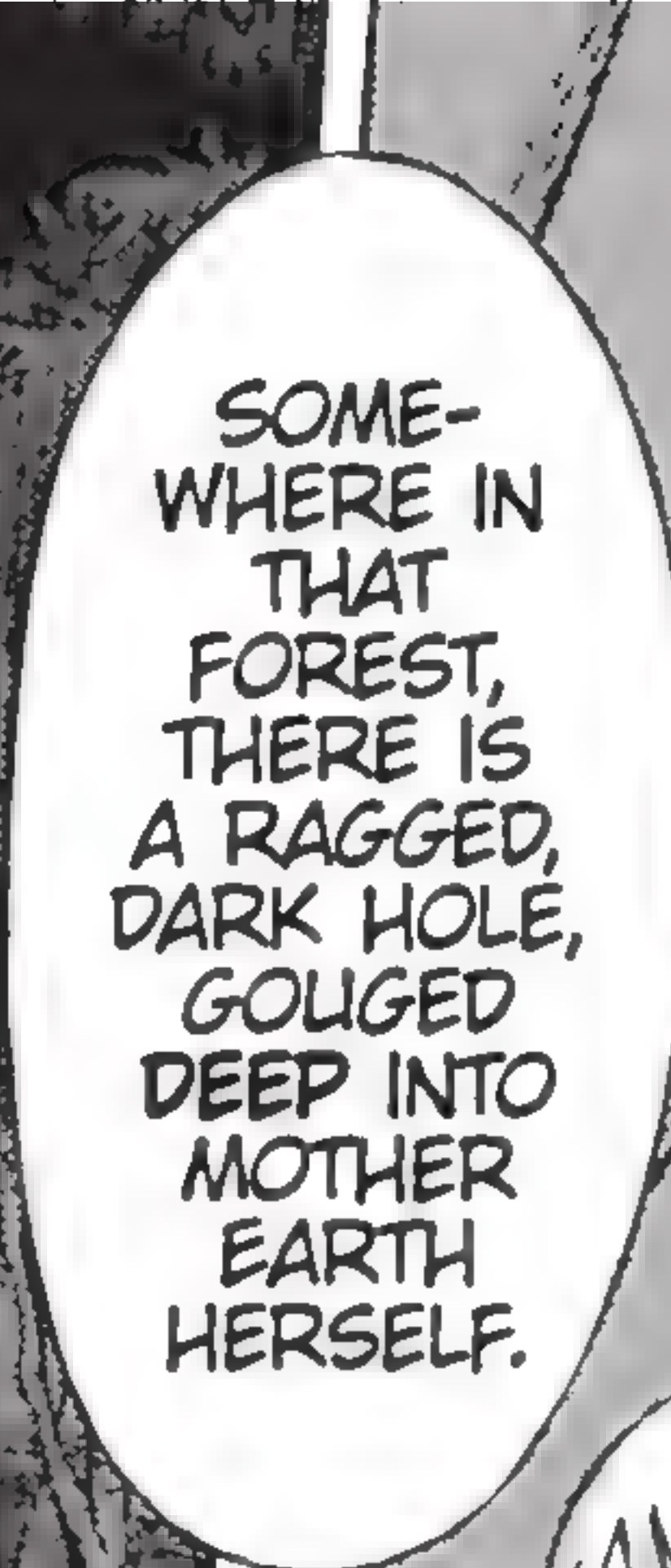
IT'S
NOT
IMPOS-
SIBLE.



WELL?
DOES
THAT SHED
SOME
LIGHT
ON THE
SUBJECT
FOR
YOU...?



IT IS
OUT OF
THAT
DARKNESS
THAT I
CAME.



SOME-
WHERE IN
THAT
FOREST,
THERE IS
A RAGGED,
DARK HOLE,
GOUGED
DEEP INTO
MOTHER
EARTH
HERSELF.



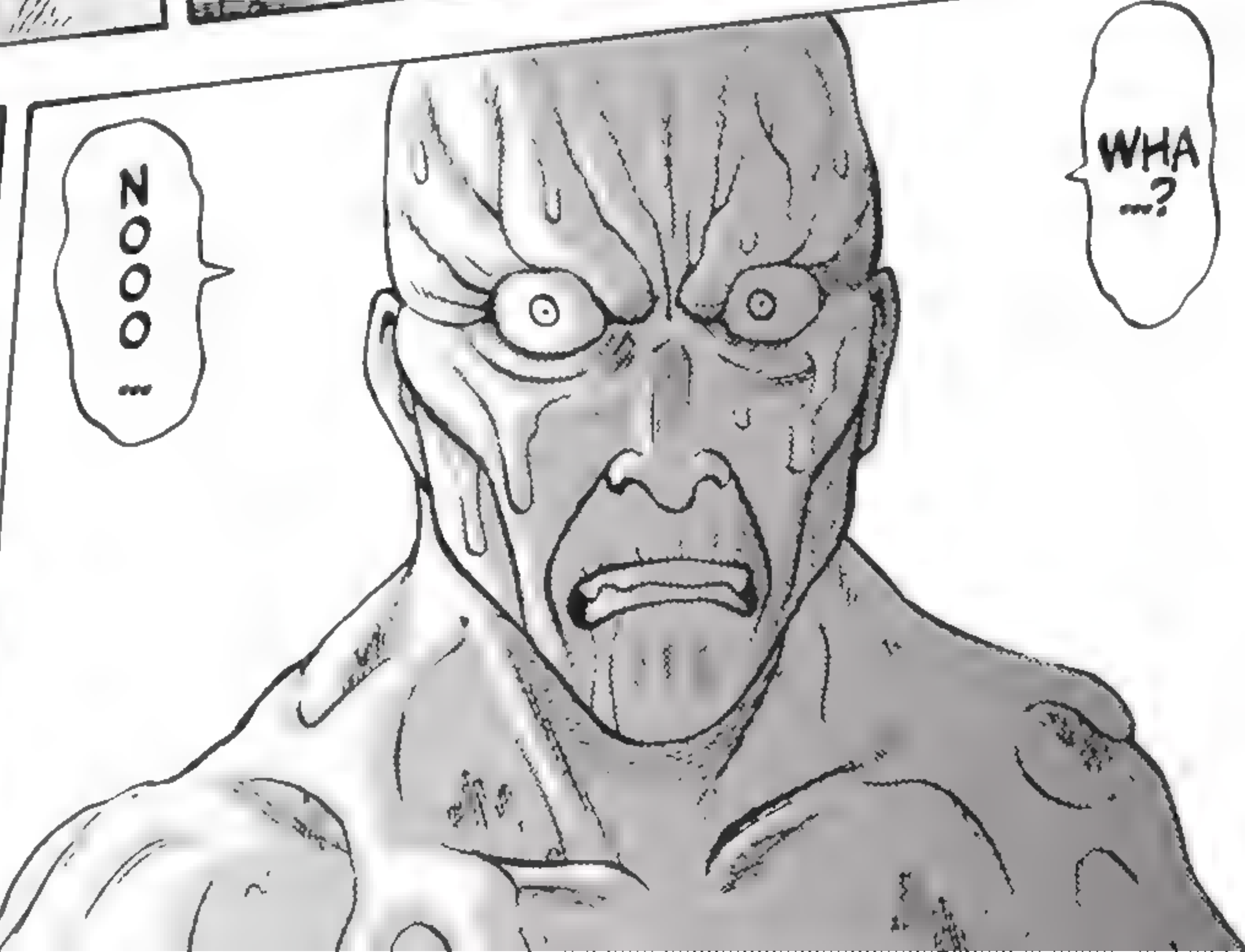
SOME-
WHERE
IN THE
WORLD,
THERE IS
A DENSE,
ENDLESS
FOREST...



THAT
CANNOT
BE!

NO...
NO...

IMPOS-
SIBLE...!



NOO
NOO
NOO

WHA
...?



OH,
THAT
ENDED
CENTU-
RIES
AGO,
IVAN-
OVIC.

IT CAME
CRASHING
DOWN THE
VERY DAY
MINA WAS
BORN...

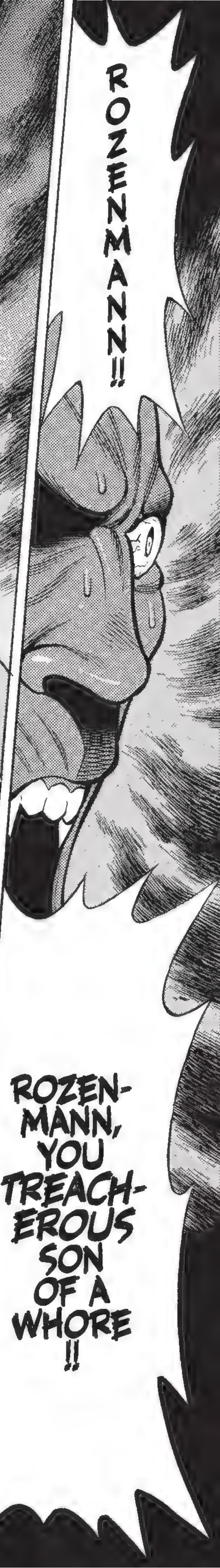


BUT
DO NOT
BE SO
DESPON-
DENT.

AFTER ALL,
YOU WILL
NOT BE
AROUND TO
WITNESS
THE LAST
DEATH
THROES
OF YOUR
BELOVED
RACE.

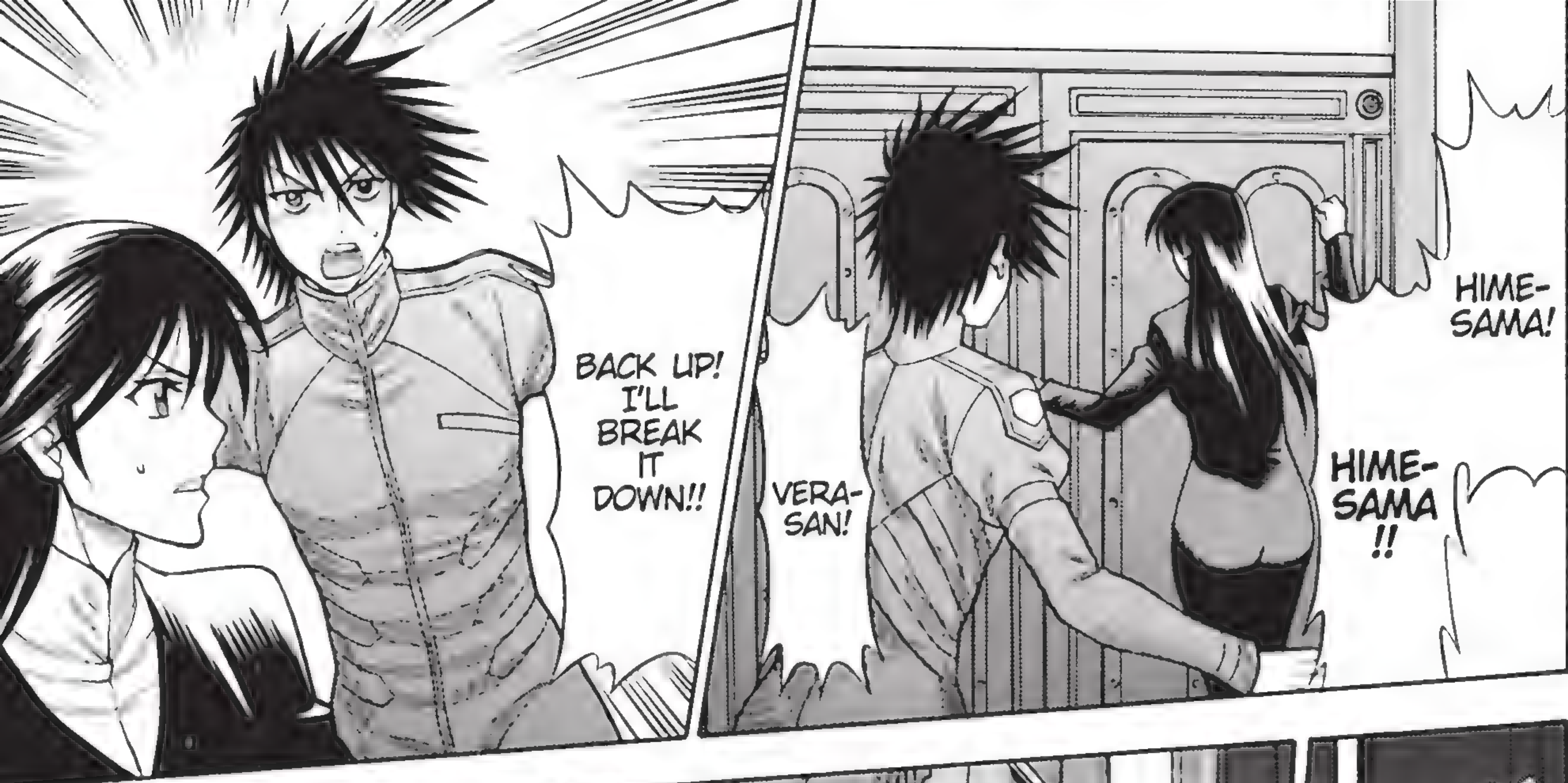


DO YOU
MEAN TO
BRING AN
END
TO THE
LONG AND
GLORIOUS
HISTORY
OF THE
TRUE-
BLOODED
VAMPIRES
?!



ROZENMANN!!

ROZEN-
MANN,
YOU
TREACH-
EROUS
SON
OF A
WHORE
!!



BACK UP!
I'LL
BREAK
IT
DOWN!!

VERA-
SAN!

HIME-
SAMA!

HIME-
SAMA
!!



PSHHH

DO NOT
WORRY...
IT IS
OVER.

PSHHH



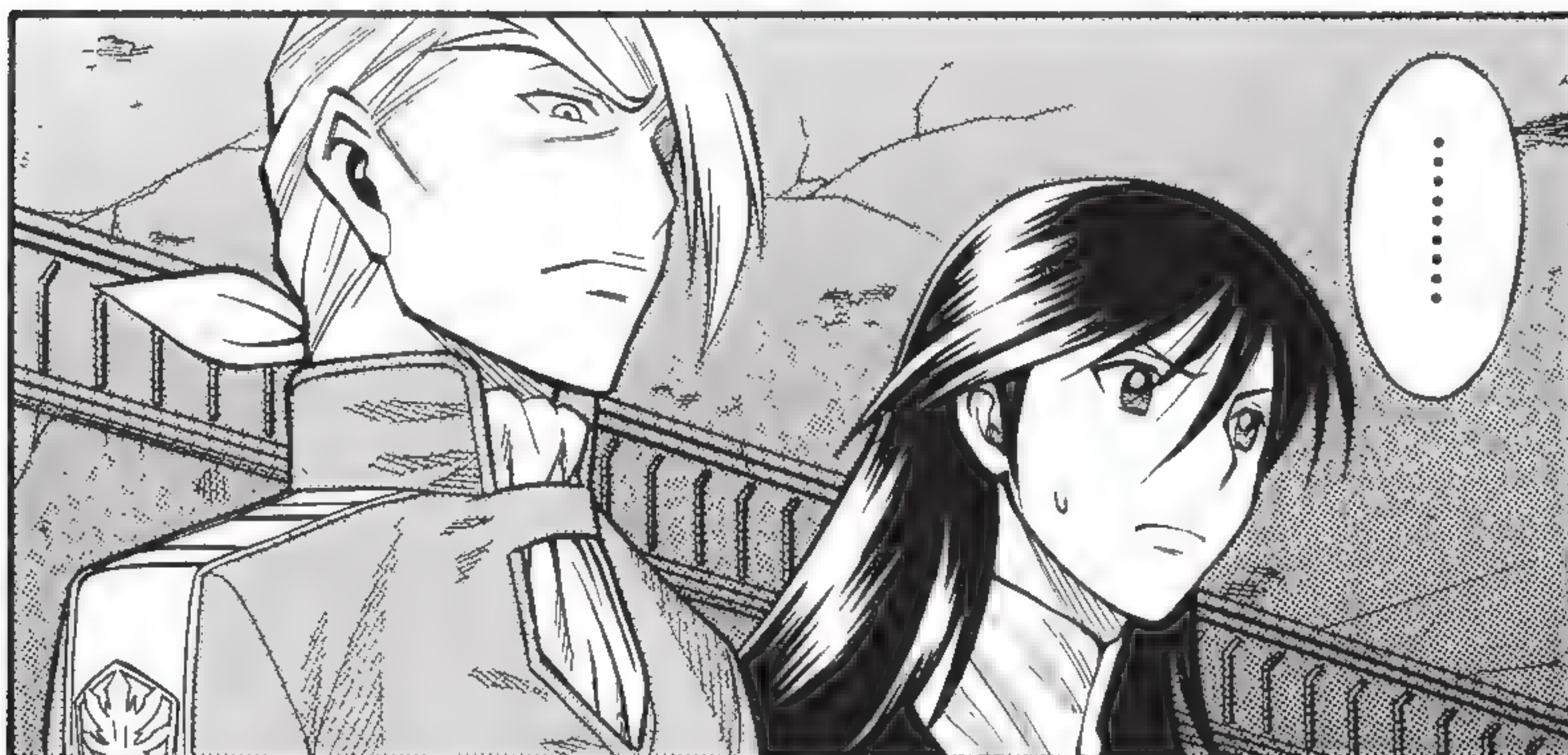
VERA!
WOLFGANG!
YOU
WILL BE
FLYING
TO RUSSIA
AS SOON
AS A
PLANE
CAN BE
PREPARED.

LISTEN,
EVERY-
ONE.
NOW
OUR
TRUE
WORK
BEGINS!



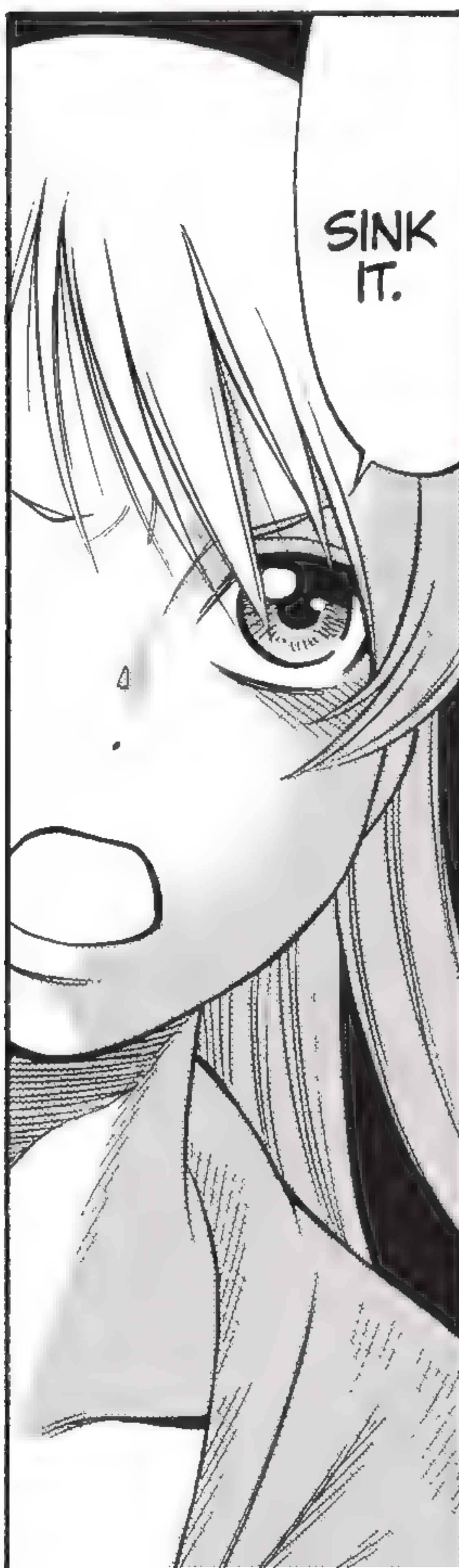
ARE
YOU
ALL
RIGHT
?!

HIME-
SAMA!

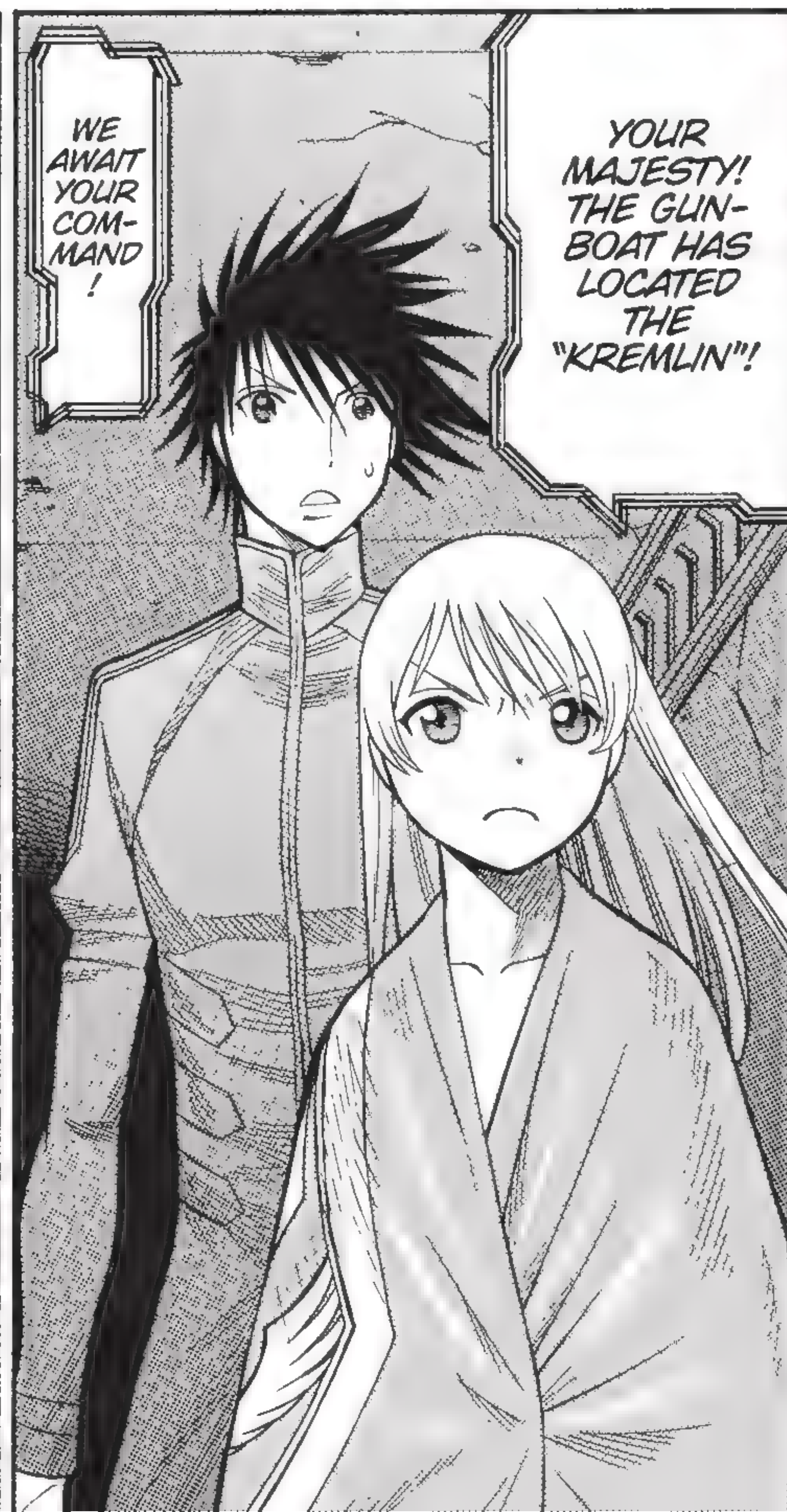


.....

YOU ARE TO
EXPUL WHATEVER
REMAINS OF
IVANOVIC'S
FORCES,
AND ANNEX HIS
HOLDINGS IN
THE NAME OF
THE ROYAL
FAMILY.



SINK
IT.



WE
AWAIT
YOUR
COM-
MAND
!

YOUR
MAJESTY!
THE GUN-
BOAT HAS
LOCATED
THE
"KREMLIN"!



IT WILL
BE A
GREAT
UNDER-
TAKING,
BUT I
TRUST
YOU TO
HANDLE
IT
WELL.





FR00



YOUR
KINGDOM HAS
SUCCESSFULLY
SURVIVED THE
DANGER.

FRR00

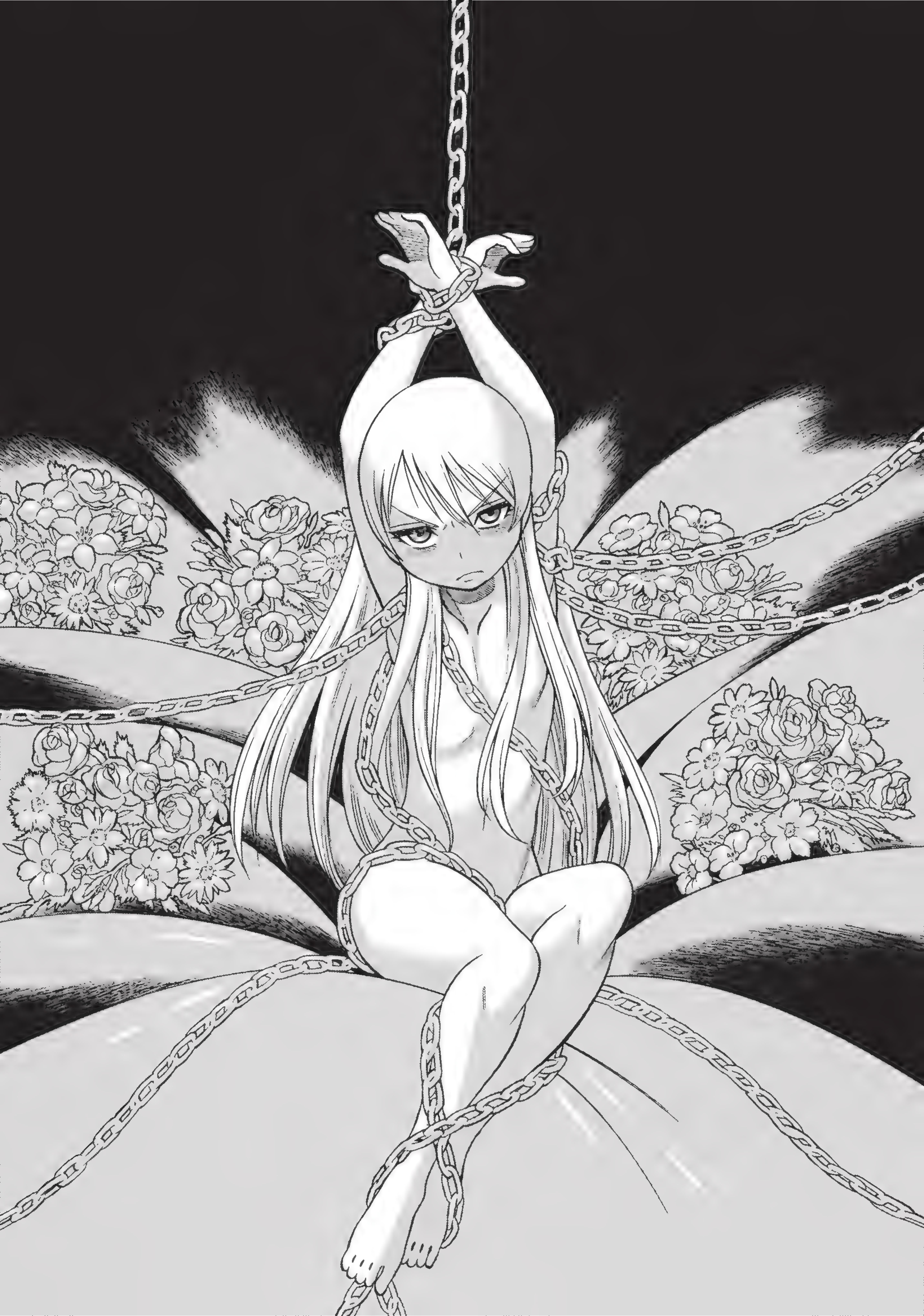
IT
SEEMS
THE
BATTLE
HAS
ENDED...

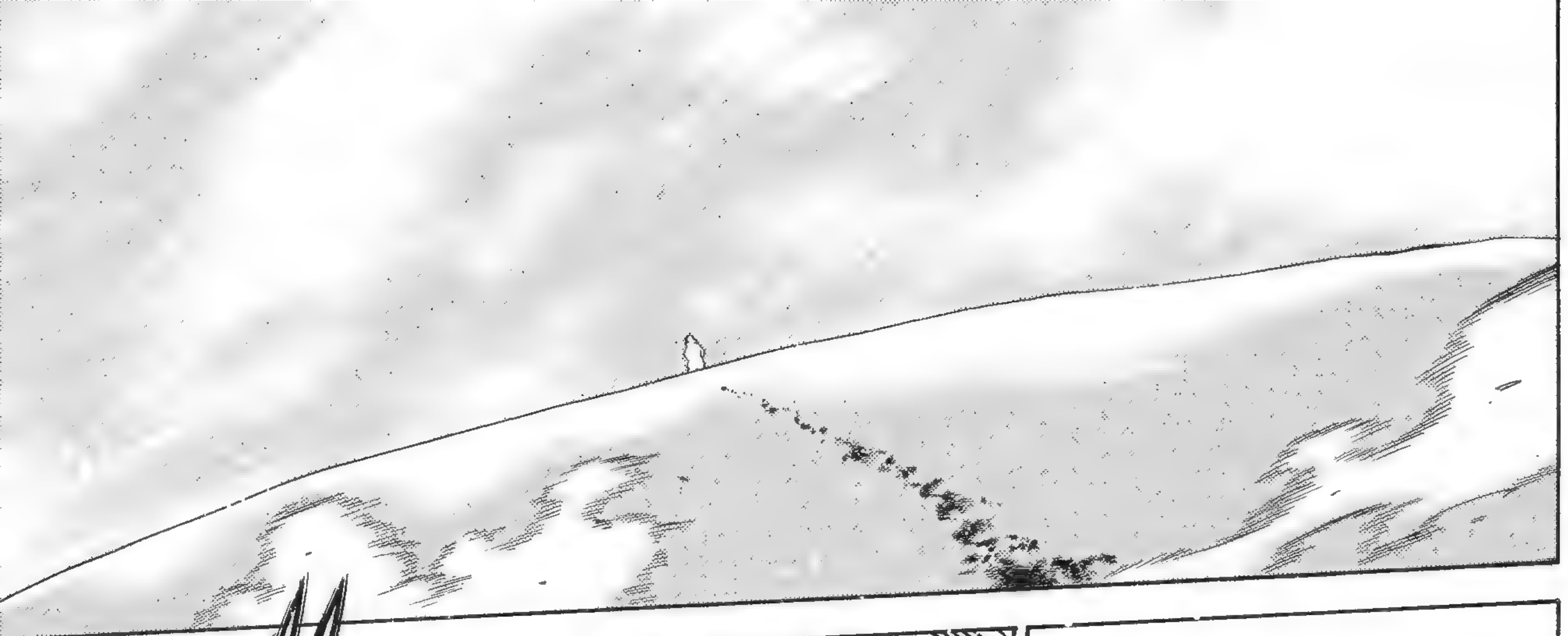
THAT
WOULD
BE HER
KINGDOM
NOW.
IS THAT
NOT
CORRECT
...

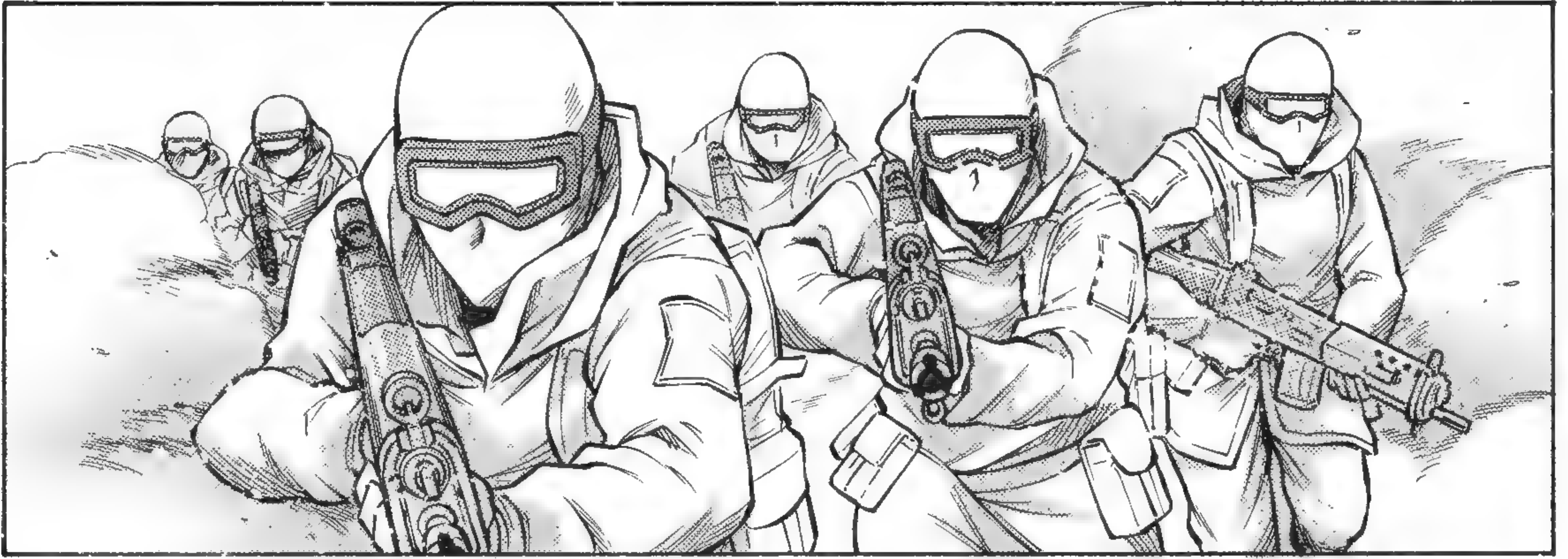
FRR000

OH,
PARDON
ME.
A SLIP
OF THE
TONGUE
...

MY
LOVELY
BRIDE?







Chapter 55: Scheming



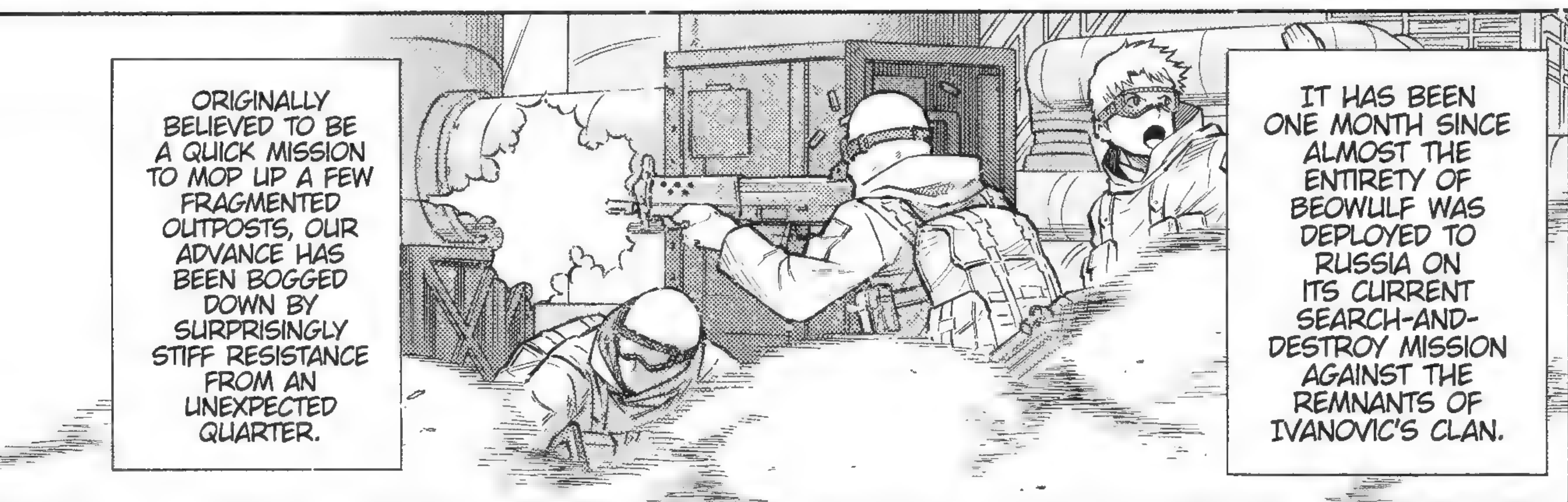


COMMANDER'S
LOG, ENTRY 189:2.
RECORDED BY
VERATOS
CARMENCITA
LAGASH.



CONTINUE
TO
SNUFF
THEM
OUT AS
YOU FIND
THEM.

DO NOT
LET EVEN
ONE
SOLDIER
ESCAPE
ALIVE.



ORIGINALLY
BELIEVED TO BE
A QUICK MISSION
TO MOP UP A FEW
FRAGMENTED
OUTPOSTS, OUR
ADVANCE HAS
BEEN BOGGED
DOWN BY
SURPRISINGLY
STIFF RESISTANCE
FROM AN
UNEXPECTED
QUARTER.

IT HAS BEEN
ONE MONTH SINCE
ALMOST THE
ENTIRETY OF
BEOWULF WAS
DEPLOYED TO
RUSSIA ON
ITS CURRENT
SEARCH-AND-
DESTROY MISSION
AGAINST THE
REMNANTS OF
IVANOVIC'S CLAN.

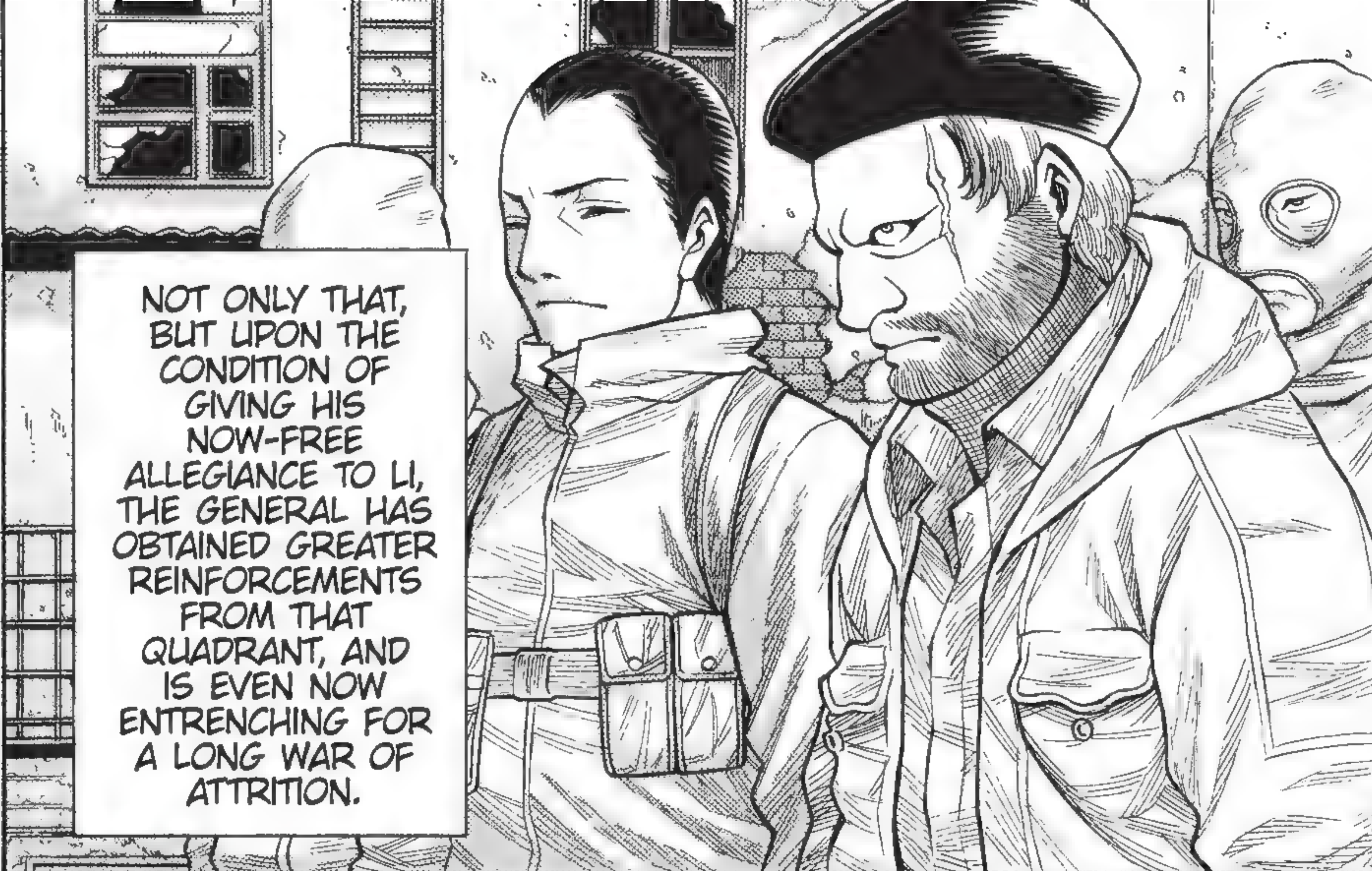


IT HAD BEEN
ASSUMED BY ALL
THAT LORD LI, HAVING
TO DEAL WITH THE
PIED PIPER EPIDEMIC
IN HIS OWN LANDS,
WOULD STAND
NEUTRAL IN
THIS CONFLICT.
HIS INVOLVEMENT
CAME AS A COMPLETE
SURPRISE AND
CAUGHT US,
ADMITTEDLY, ENTIRELY
UNPREPARED.



UNEXPECT-
EDLY WELL
ORGANIZED,
THE
RESISTANCE
WAS AIDED
BY, OF ALL
THINGS,
DETACHMENTS
OF LORD
LI'S ELITE
TROOPS.

SECURING
THE
EASTERN
PART OF
IVANOVIC'S
HOLDINGS
WAS
SIMPLE,
AND TOOK
LITTLE
MORE
THAN A
WEEK.
HOWEVER,
THAT IS
WHEN
IVANOVIC'S
FORCES
BEGAN A
COUNTER-
OFFENSIVE.




NOT ONLY THAT,
BUT UPON THE
CONDITION OF
GIVING HIS
NOW-FREE
ALLEGIANCE TO LI,
THE GENERAL HAS
OBTAINED GREATER
REINFORCEMENTS
FROM THAT
QUADRANT, AND
IS EVEN NOW
ENTRENCHING FOR
A LONG WAR OF
ATTRITION.

THE RESISTANCE
IS BEING LED BY
GENERAL NABOKOV,
ONE OF IVANOVIC'S
FINEST SOLDIERS AND
THE HIGHEST RANKING
OF HIS SURVIVING
RETAINERS. HE
PROMPTLY DECLARED
THIS TO BE A WAR TO
AVENGE THE UNJUST
DEATH OF THEIR LORD,
THUS INCREASING THE
ENEMY'S MORALE.



BUT...
THINKING
ON IT,
THIS IS THE
LONGEST I
HAVE BEEN
SEPARATED
FROM HER
MAJESTY
SINCE
1910...

NO,
LONGER.
TWO
HUNDRED
YEARS,
AT LEAST.
BACK
WHEN THAT
HAPPENED.



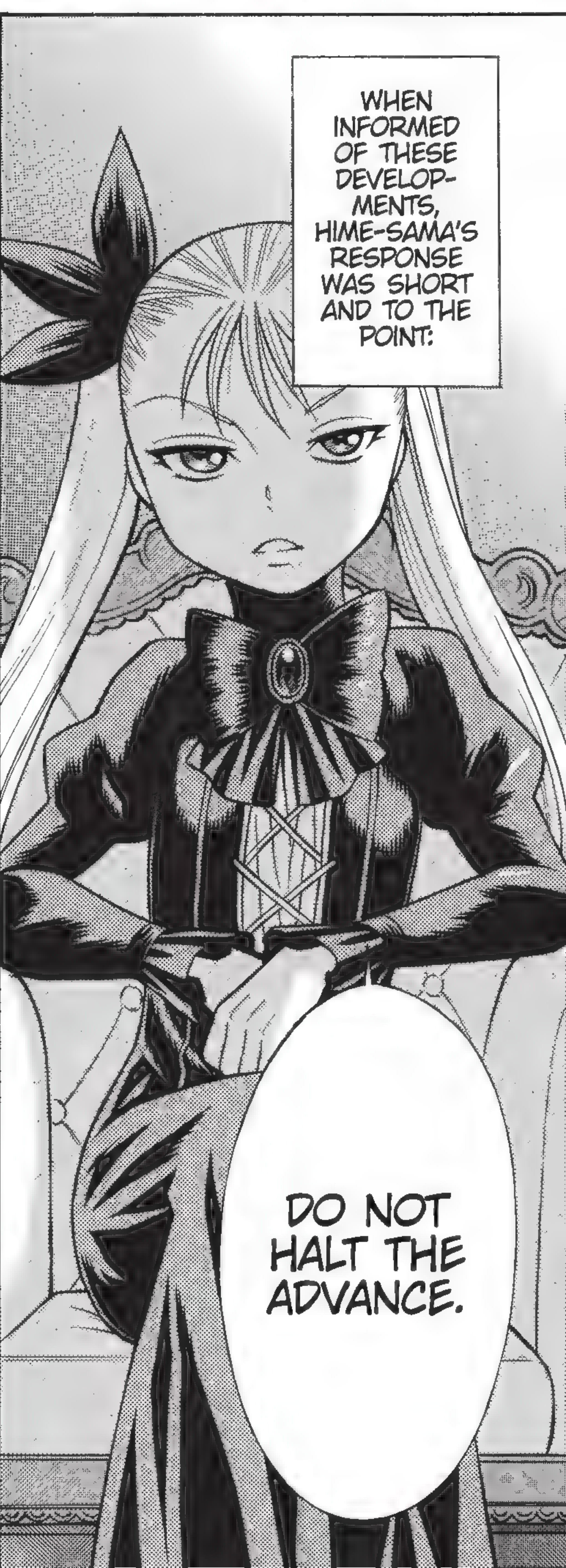
A VERY BAD
FEELING HAS
TAKEN UP
RESIDENCE
IN MY HEART,
AND IT WILL
NOT BE
DISLODGED...



IT
CONFUSES
ME. THINGS
TODAY ARE
SO VERY
DIFFERENT
FROM THE
WAY THEY
WERE
DURING
THAT TIME...

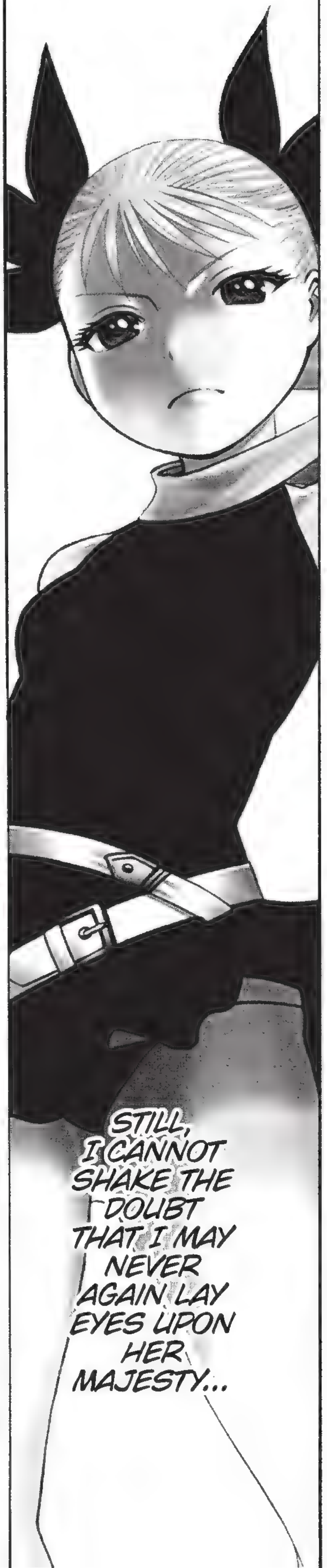


IF THAT
IS HER
MAJESTY'S
WISH,
ALL WE
CAN DO IS
OBEY...



WHEN
INFORMED
OF THESE
DEVELOP-
MENTS,
HIME-SAMA'S
RESPONSE
WAS SHORT
AND TO THE
POINT:

DO NOT
HALT THE
ADVANCE.





YOU
MAY
LEAVE.



IF ONLY
I HAD
WINGS,
I COULD
FLY TO
HER
MAJESTY'S
SIDE THIS
VERY
MOMENT...!



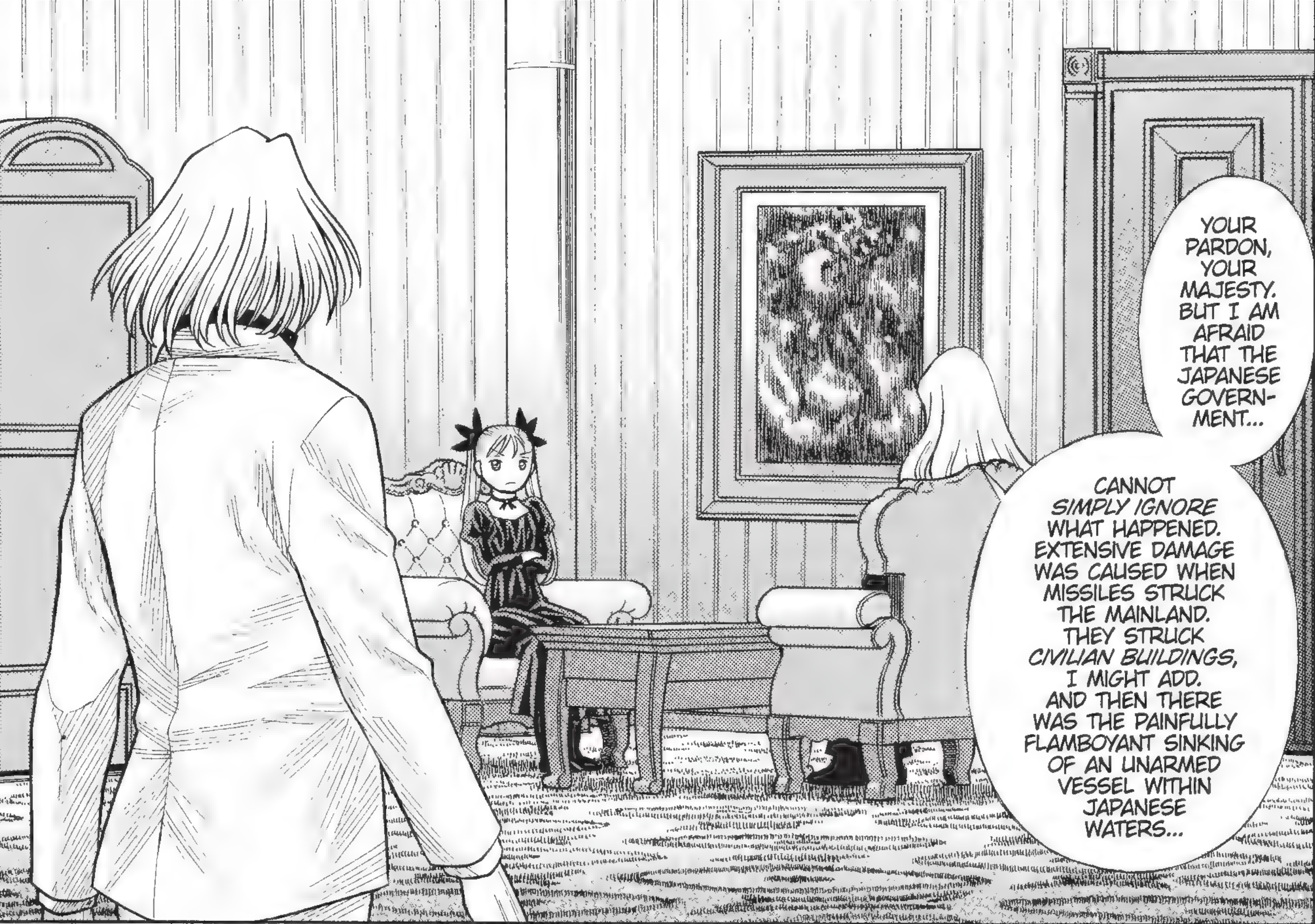
DO
NOT WORRY
YOURSELF
SO MUCH,
VERA-SAMA.
FORTUNATELY,
I HAVE IT ON
GOOD
AUTHORITY THAT
AKIRA HAS NOT
BEEN REMOVED
FROM HIS POST
BY HER
MAJESTY'S
SIDE.

SHOULD
ANYTHING
LINTOWARD
HAPPEN,
HE WILL
INFORM US
IMMEDI-
ATELY.



AAH
...

SOME-
THING
"LIN-
TOWARD"
...



YOUR
PARDON,
YOUR
MAJESTY.
BUT I AM
AFRAID
THAT THE
JAPANESE
GOVERN-
MENT...

CANNOT
SIMPLY IGNORE
WHAT HAPPENED.
EXTENSIVE DAMAGE
WAS CAUSED WHEN
MISSILES STRUCK
THE MAINLAND.
THEY STRUCK
CIVILIAN BUILDINGS,
I MIGHT ADD.
AND THEN THERE
WAS THE PAINFULLY
FLAMBOYANT SINKING
OF AN UNARMED
VESSEL WITHIN
JAPANESE
WATERS...



SEE FOR
YOURSELF
WHAT MY
KINGDOM
SUFFERED.

AND
DON'T
SPEAK
TO ME
OF
DAMAGE.



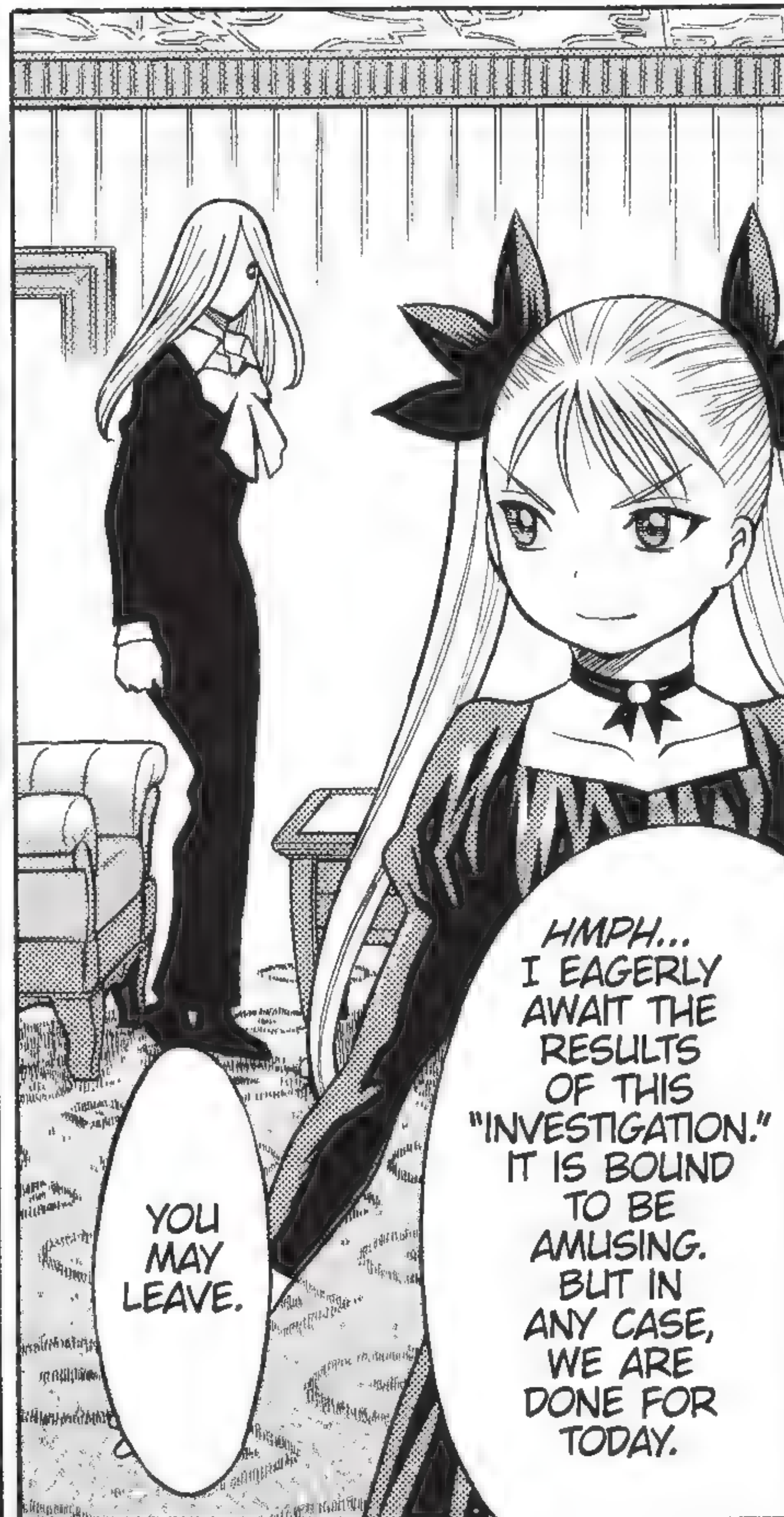
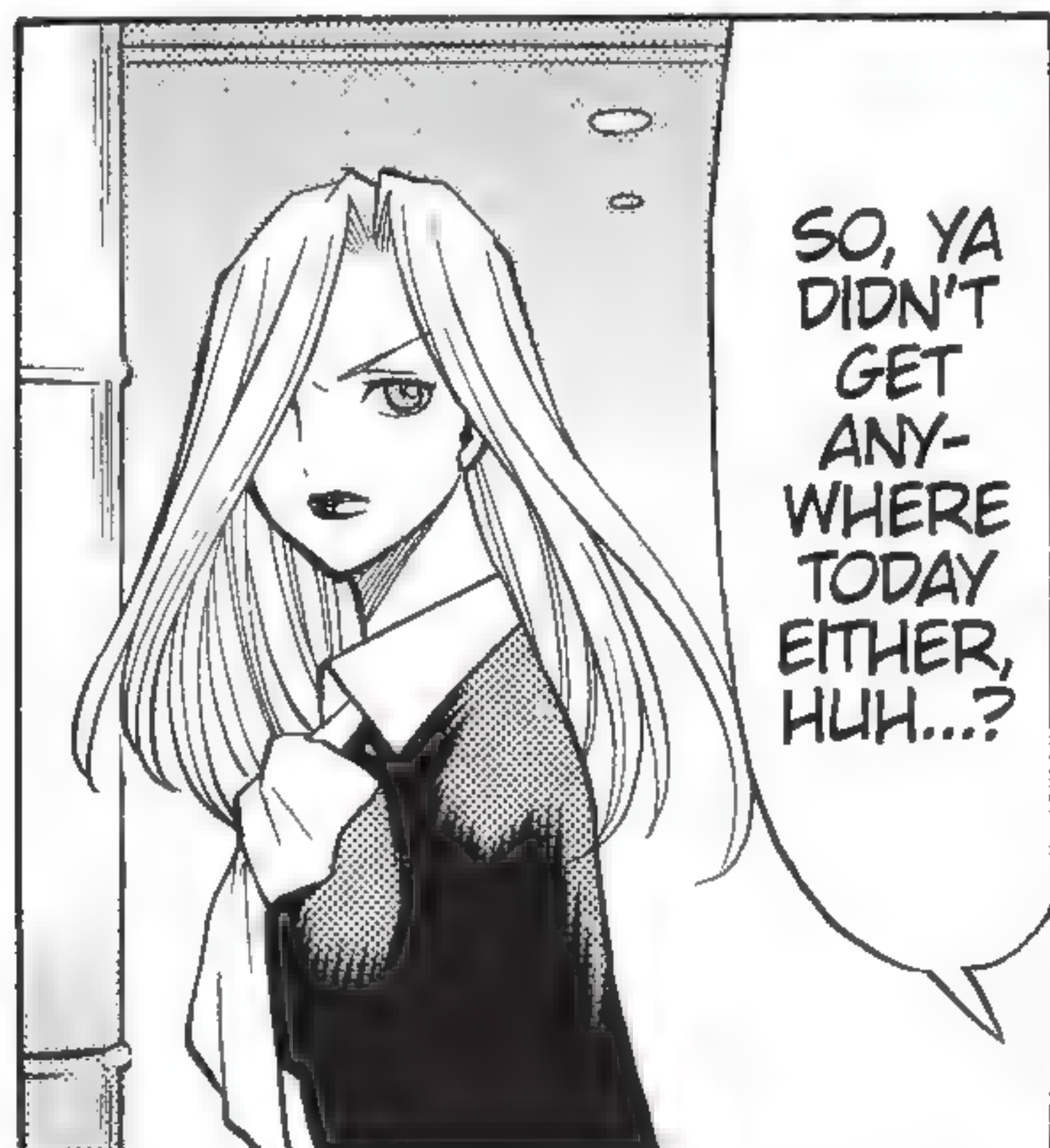
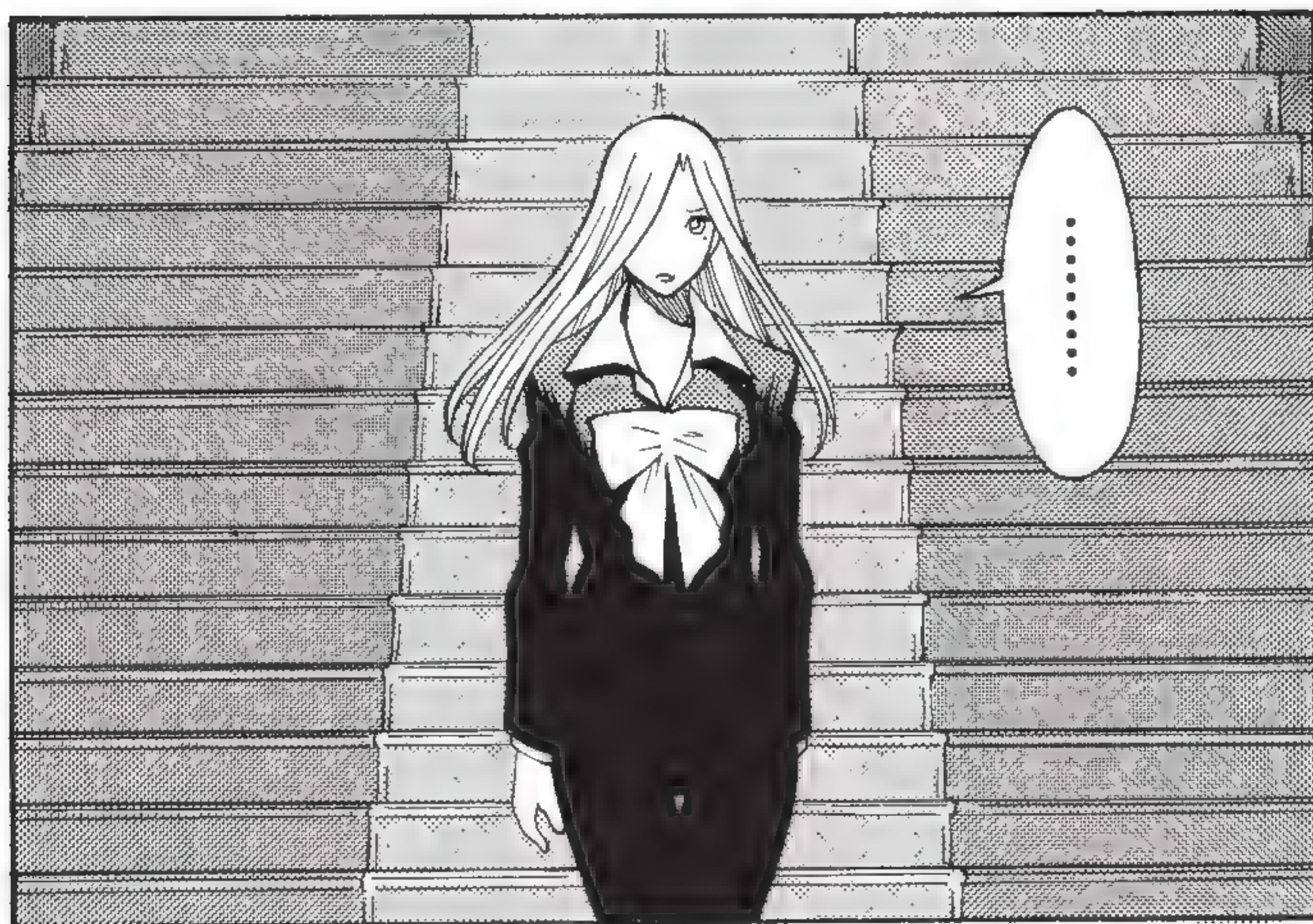
ENEMY
TRICKERY
ASSAILED MY
CITIZENS,
TURNING
BROTHER ON
BROTHER.
THOUSANDS
PERISHED AT
THEIR OWN
FAMILY'S
HANDS.

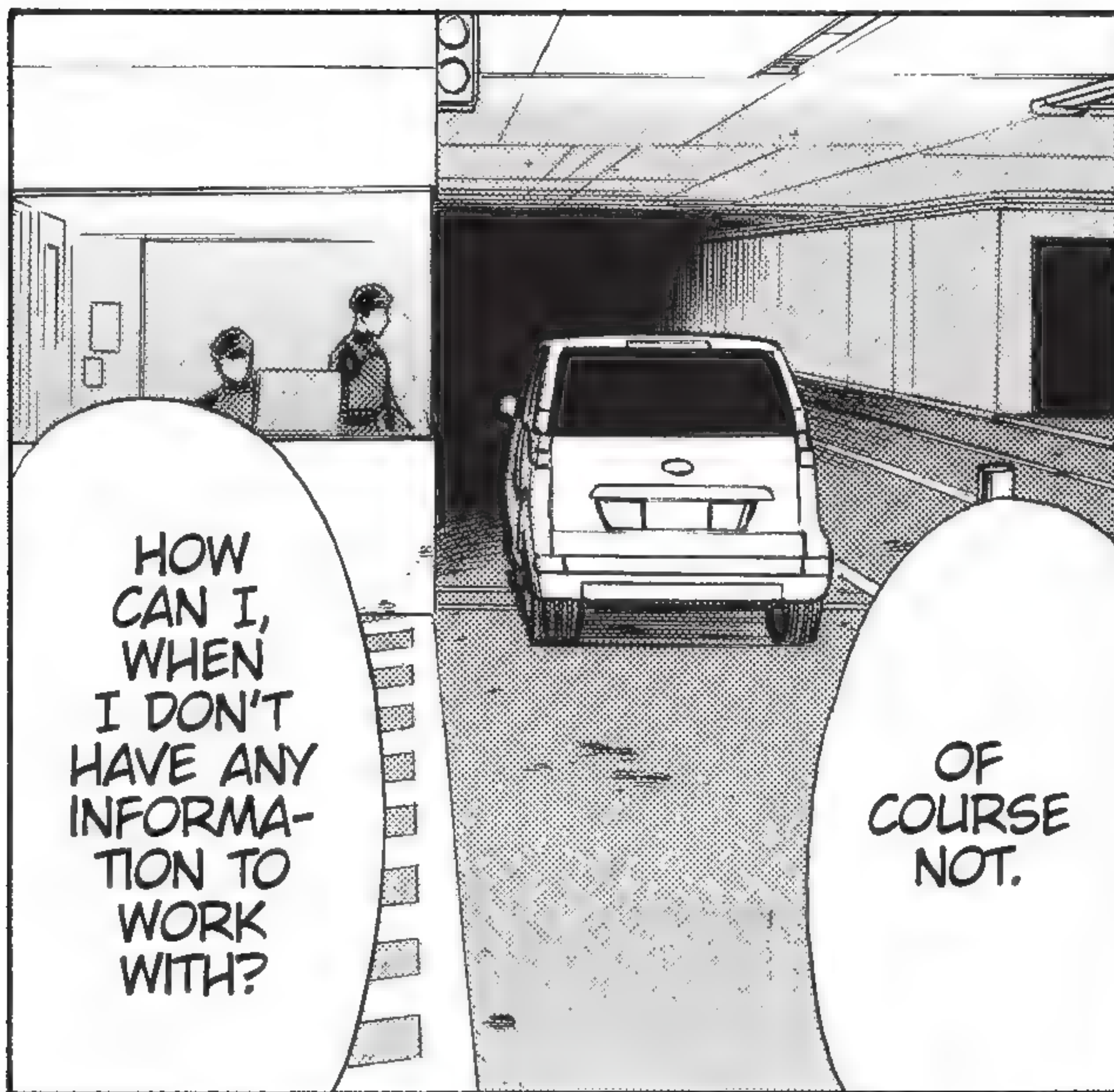
OUR CITY
STREETS
WERE
STRAFED
WITH
BULLETS
AND
MISSILES.



REALLY?
WHAT
STRANGE
THINGS
FOR YOU
TO SAY.

AFTER ALL,
HAD THE
JAPANESE
GOVERNMENT
ACTUALLY
ADHERED TO THE
PACT OF MUTUAL
PROTECTION THAT
BOTH OF OUR
GOVERNMENTS
ESTABLISHED IN
GOOD FAITH,
THEN NONE OF
THESE THINGS
WOULD HAVE
HAPPENED.





HOW CAN I, WHEN I DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION TO WORK WITH?

OF COURSE NOT.

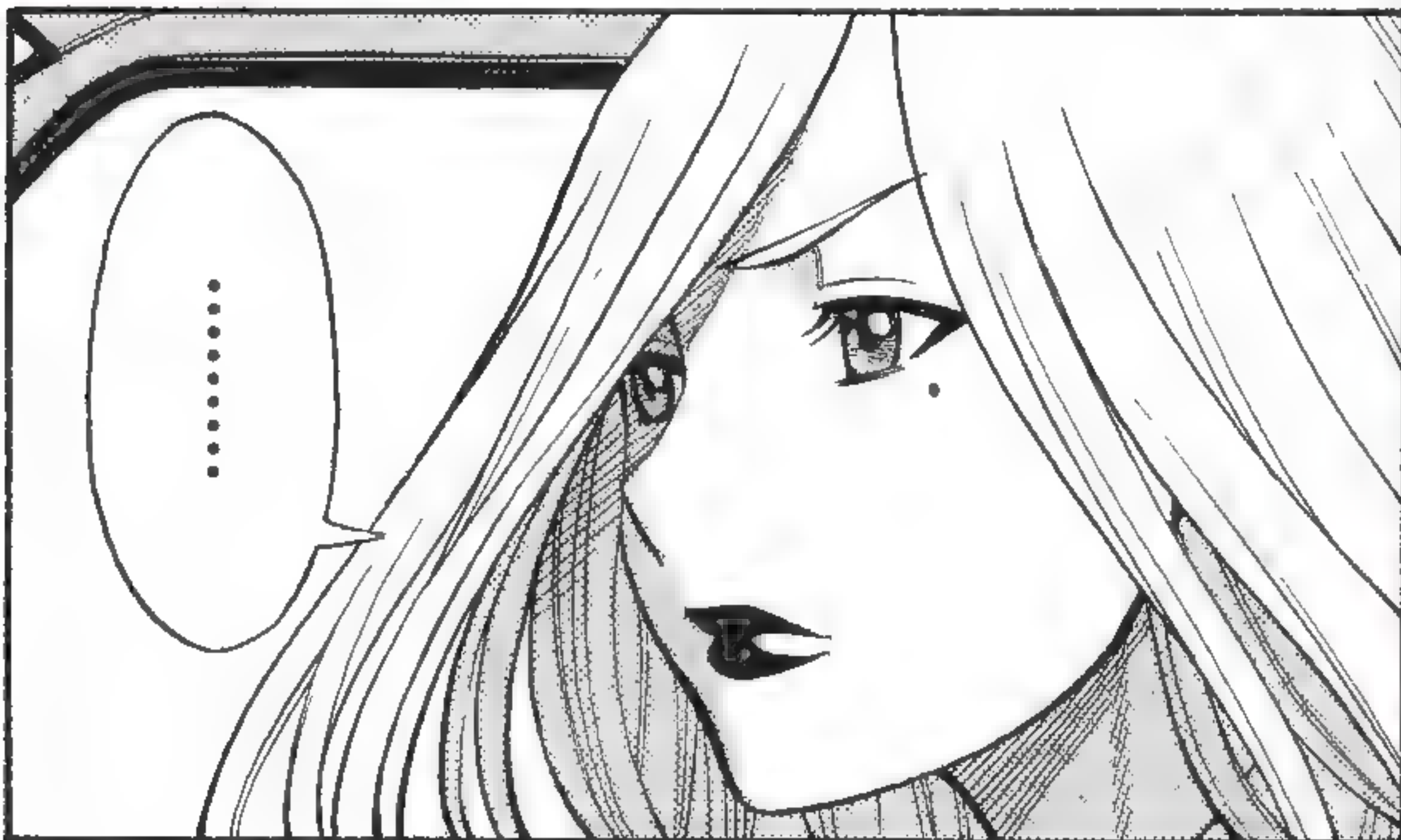


"SORRY, MA'AM! THE ENEMY SNUICK UP AND SKUNKED US GOOD, TOO." I MEAN, THAT'S WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED, AFTER ALL...

SO WHY NOT JUST GIVE THEM THE UNVAR-NISHED TRUTH?



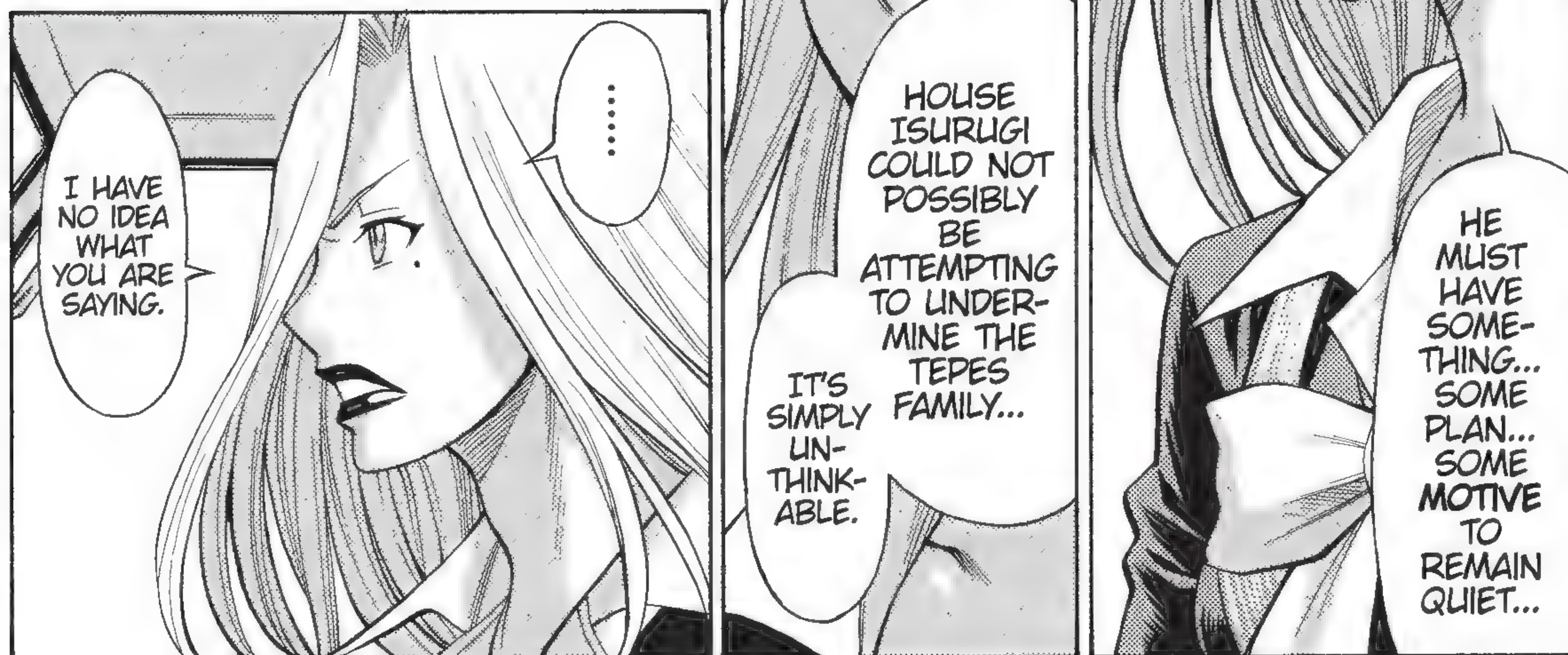
SENATOR ISURUGI'S OFFICIAL REP, YOU MEAN.



I AM HERE AS AN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT!

I COULD NEVER SAY THAT !!

"SKUNK-ED"...?





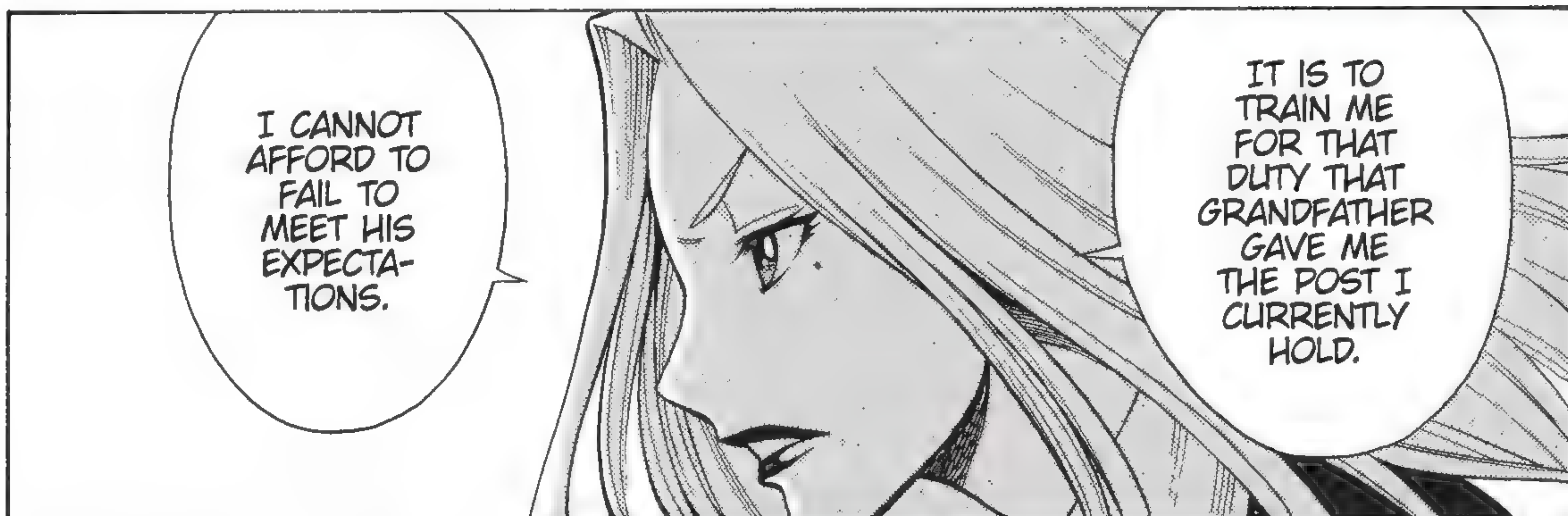
THIS STATION IS ONE THAT I WILL INHERIT, SOMEDAY.

THEN YOU UNDERSTAND MY POSITION.



I'M NOT UNFAMILIAR WITH THE WAY OLD-TIME, TRADITIONAL HOUSEHOLDS WORK.

C'MON, GIVE ME SOME CREDIT HERE. I WORKED FOR ROZENMANN, Y'KNOW.



I CANNOT AFFORD TO FAIL TO MEET HIS EXPECTATIONS.

IT IS TO TRAIN ME FOR THAT DUTY THAT GRANDFATHER GAVE ME THE POST I CURRENTLY HOLD.



NO MATTER WHAT.

I MUST MEET THEM... NO, SURPASS THEM...



EH?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY--?

OOPS! HANG ON.

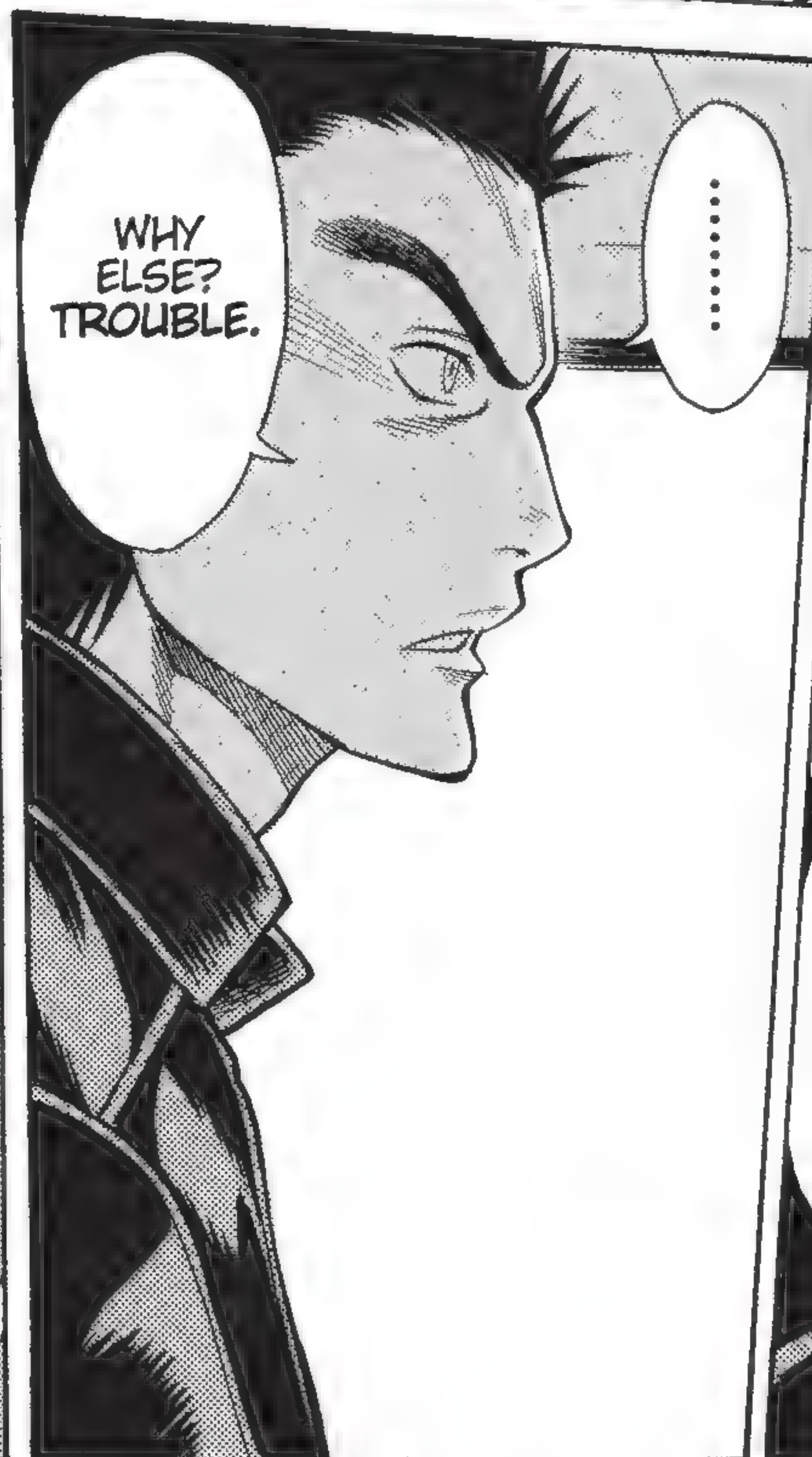
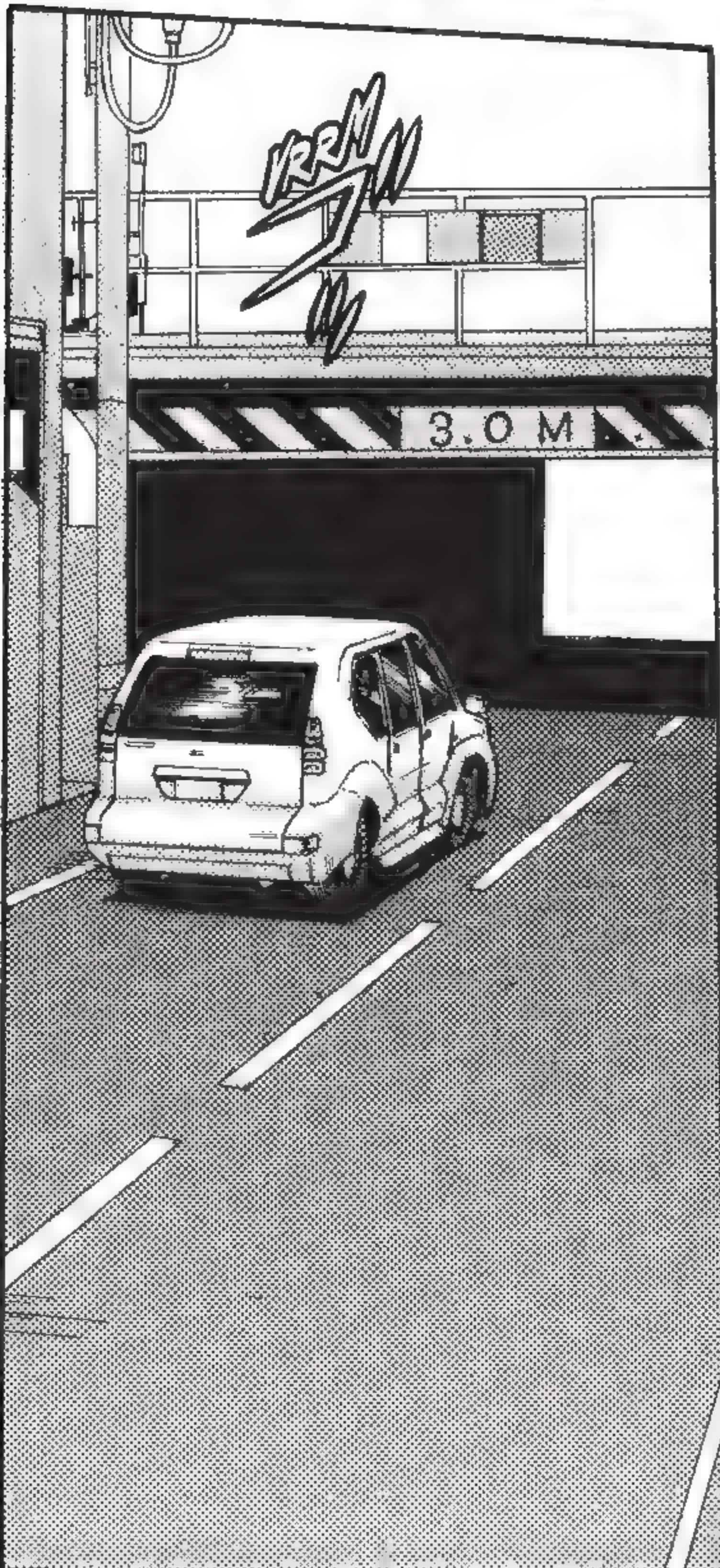
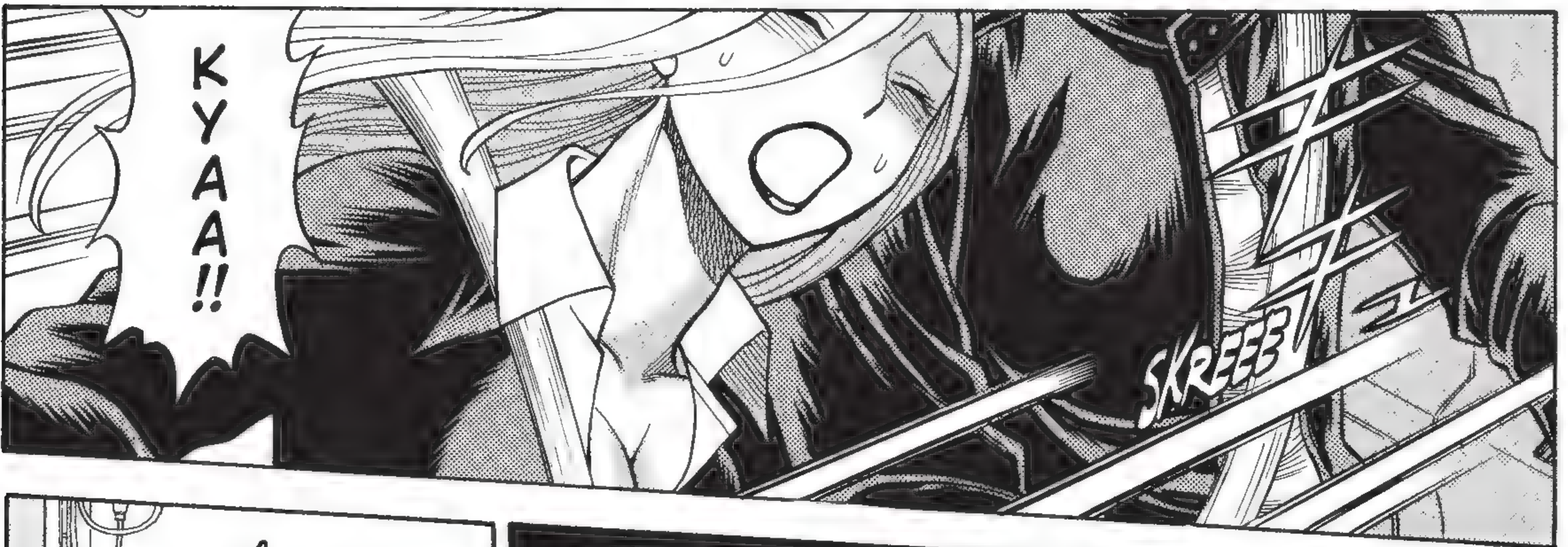
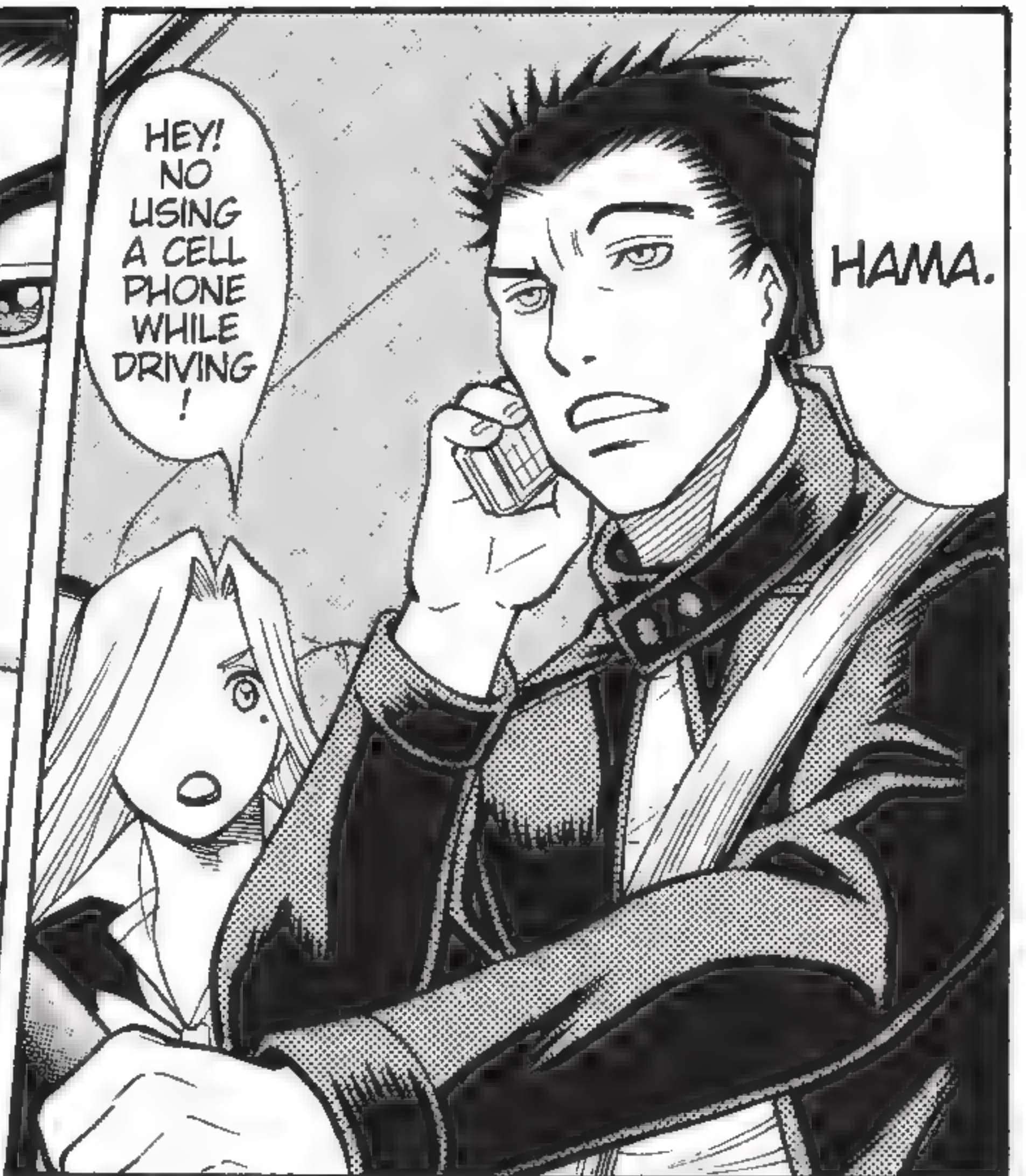
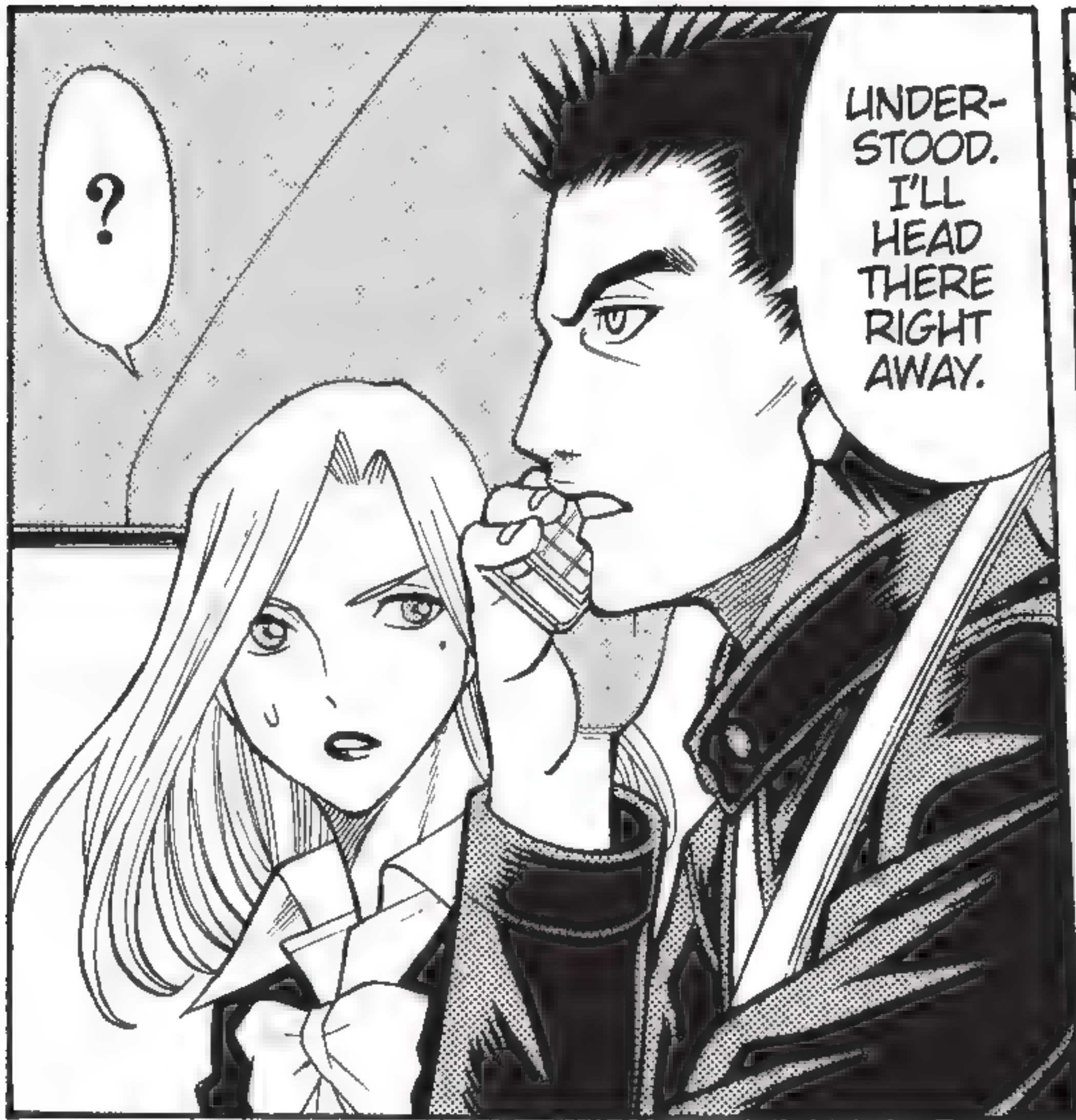


AFTER ALL, I'LL BE STICKING WITH YOU FOR THIS WHOLE ROLLER COASTER RIDE.



NO MATTER WHAT, HUH?

I'M COOL WITH THAT.





I KINDA
CAN'T
HELP BUT
WONDER
WHAT'S
GOTTEN
INTO
HIME-
SAN.

Y'KNOW,
RECENTLY
...



I MEAN,
SHE SEEMS
LIKE A
TOTALLY
DIFFERENT
PERSON
SOMETIMES.



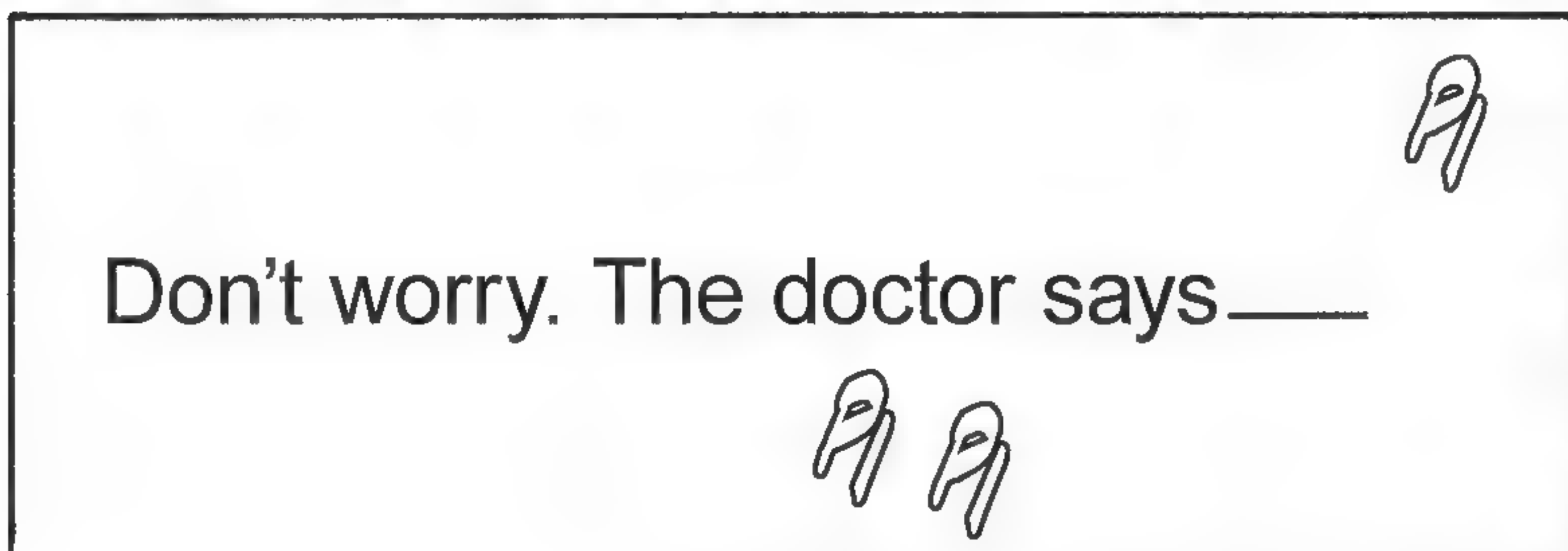
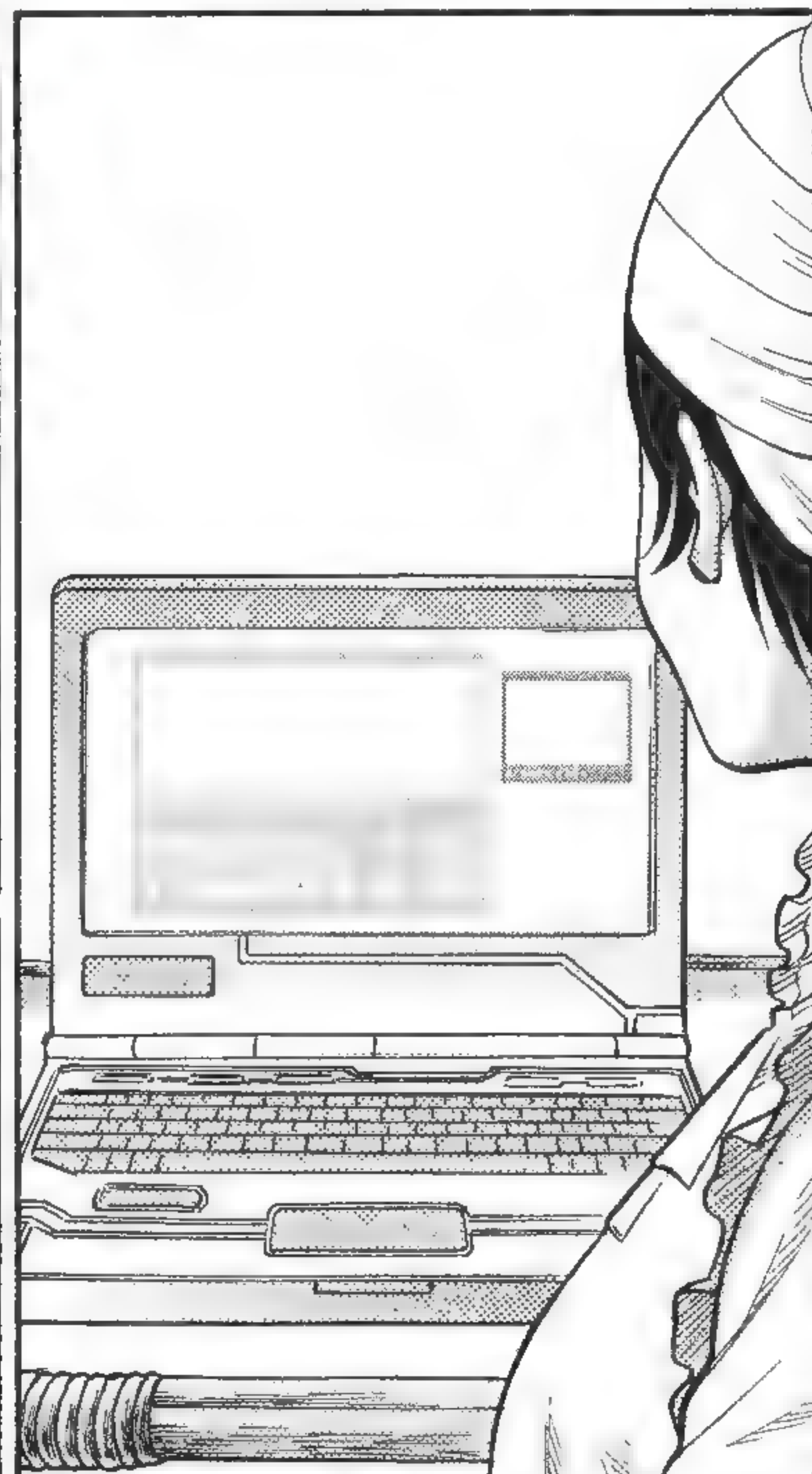
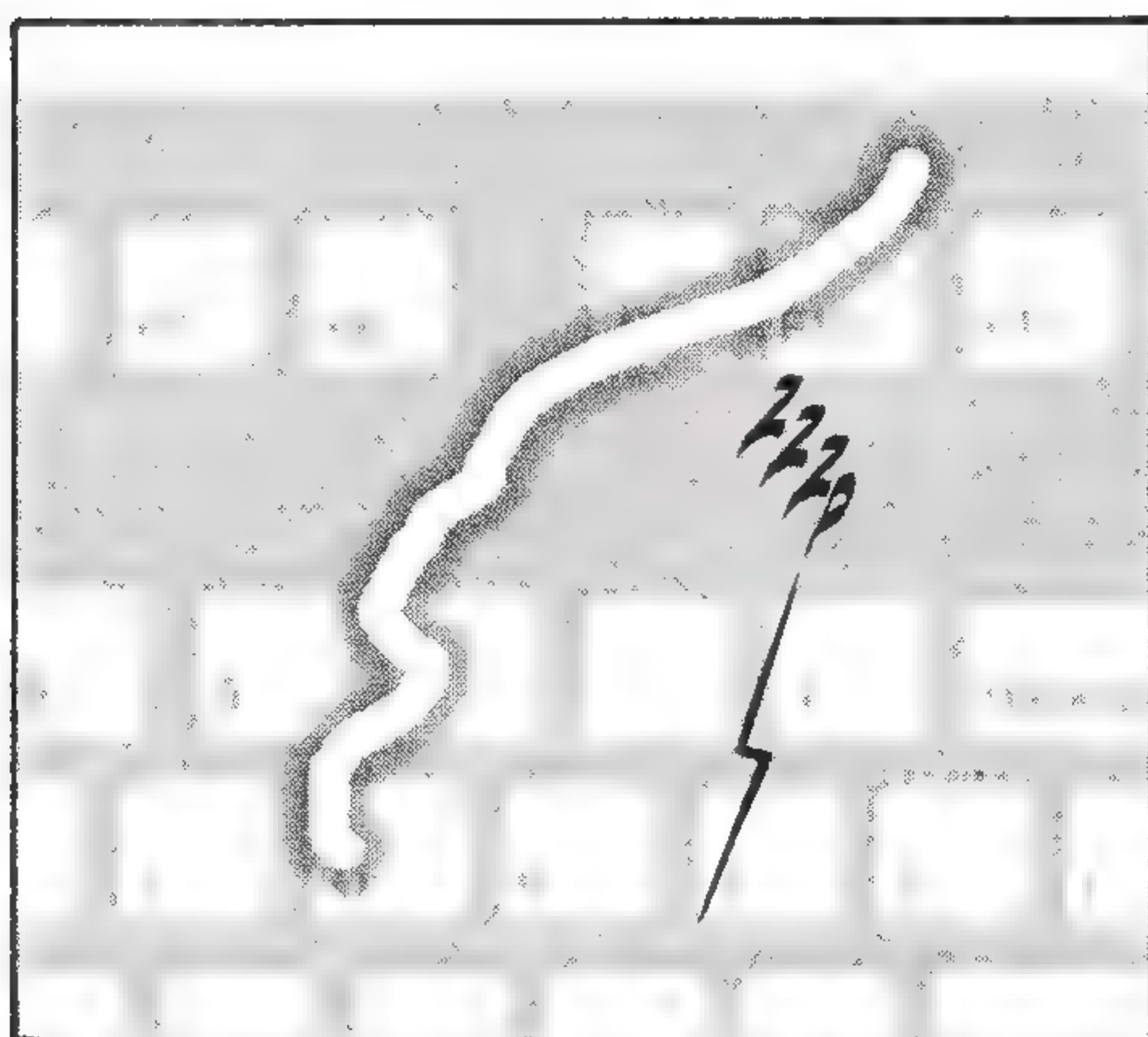
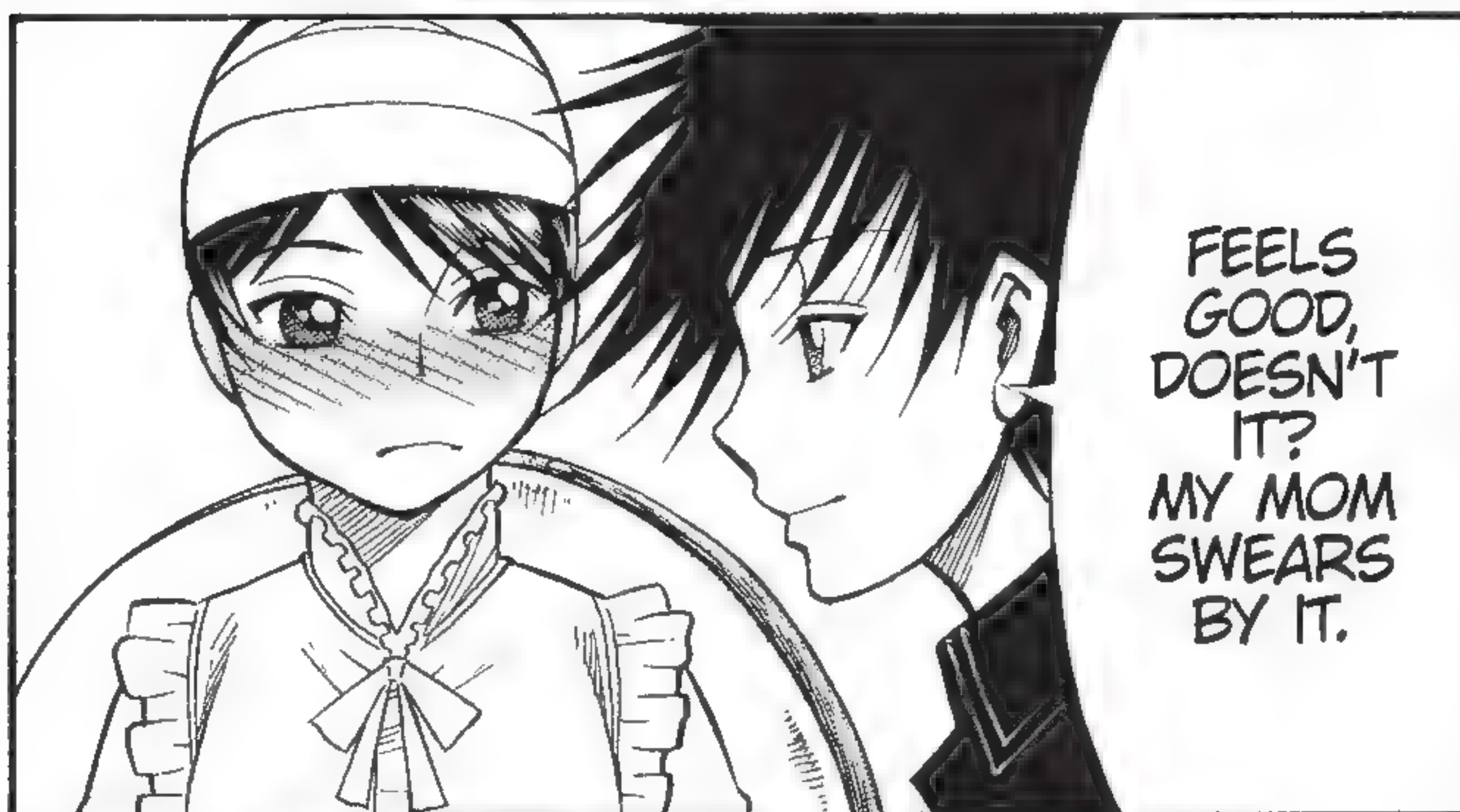
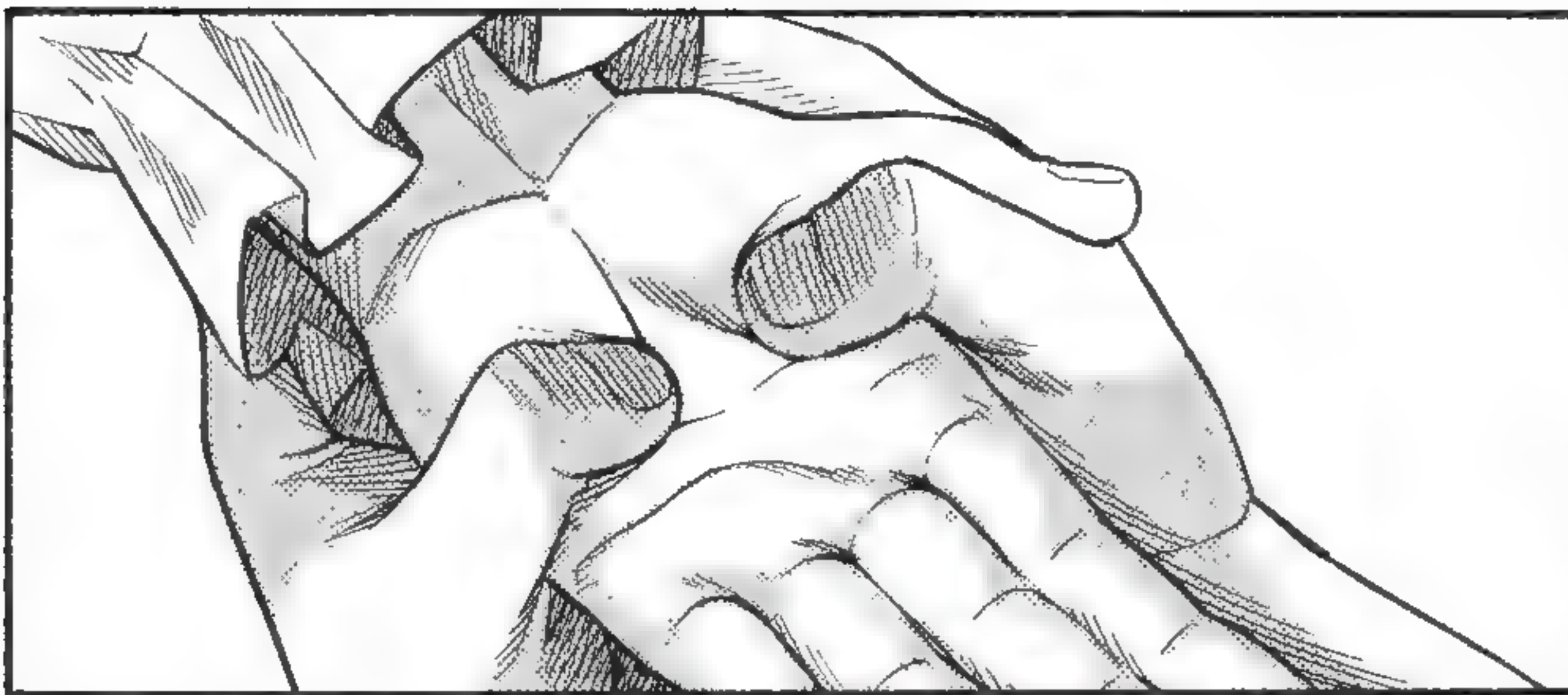
I'M
THINKING
SHE'S
STILL NOT
RECOVERED
FROM WHAT
SHE...
UM, WHAT
HAPPENED
TO
NANAMI-
SAN.

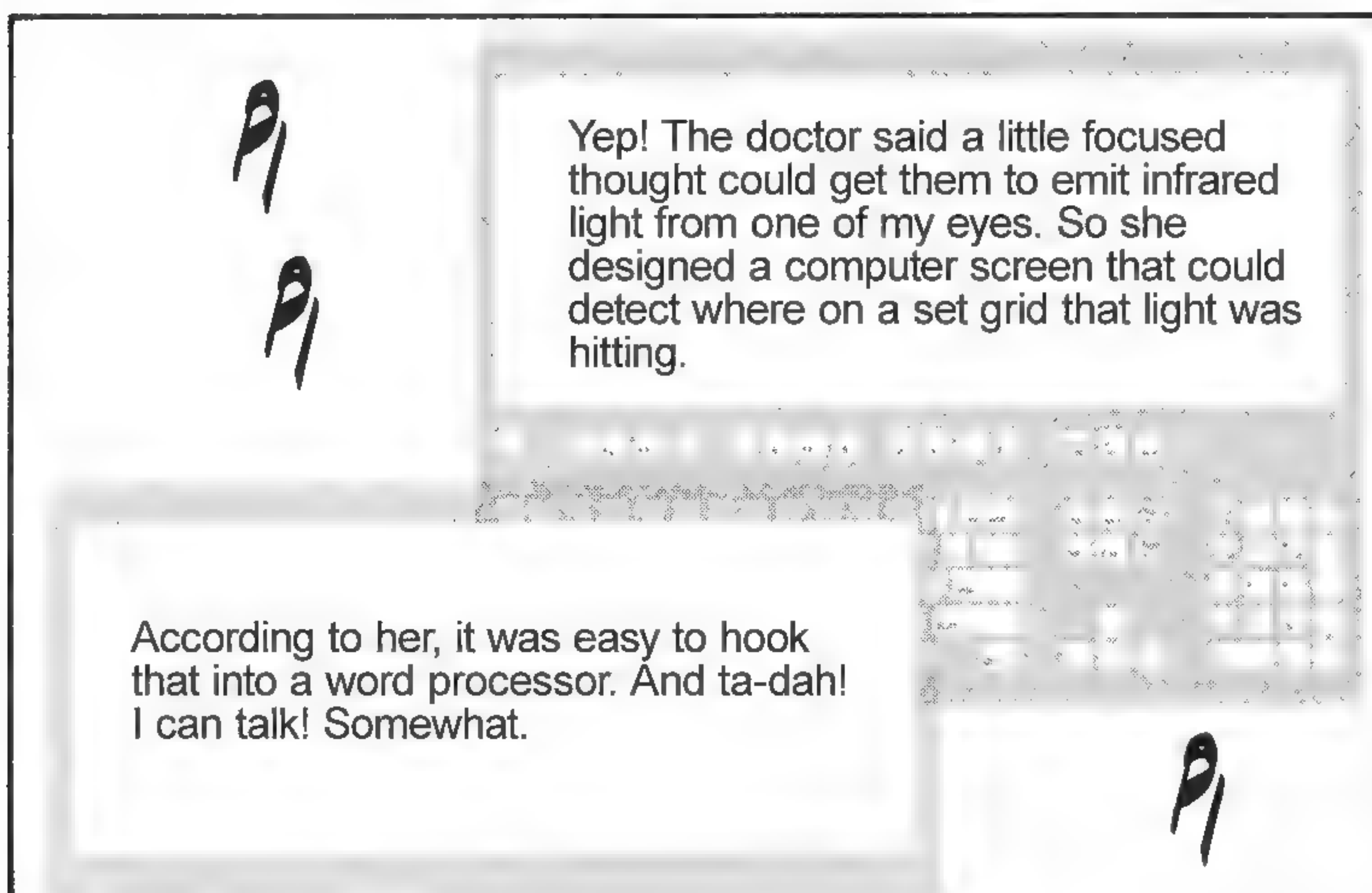
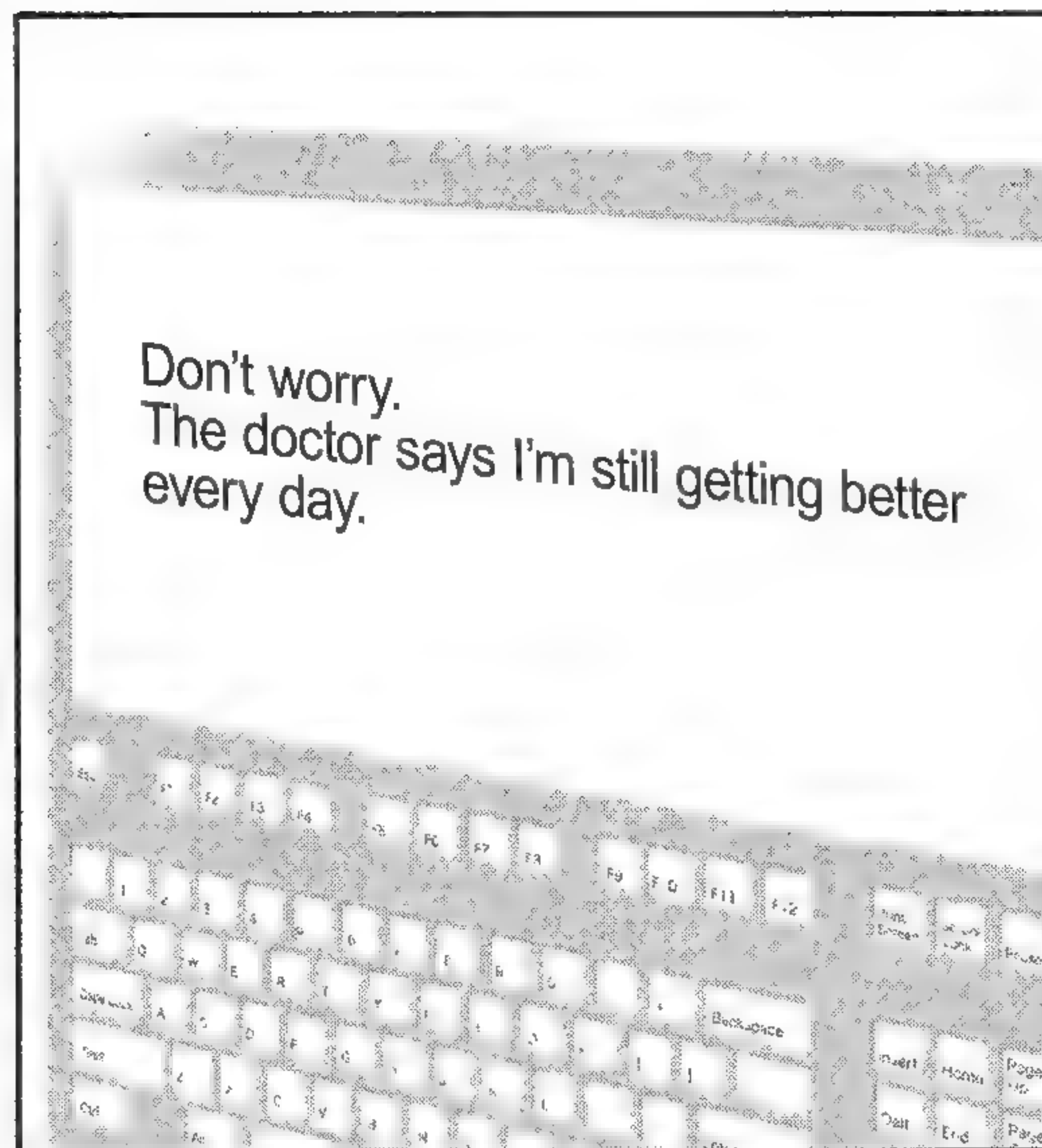


NOD

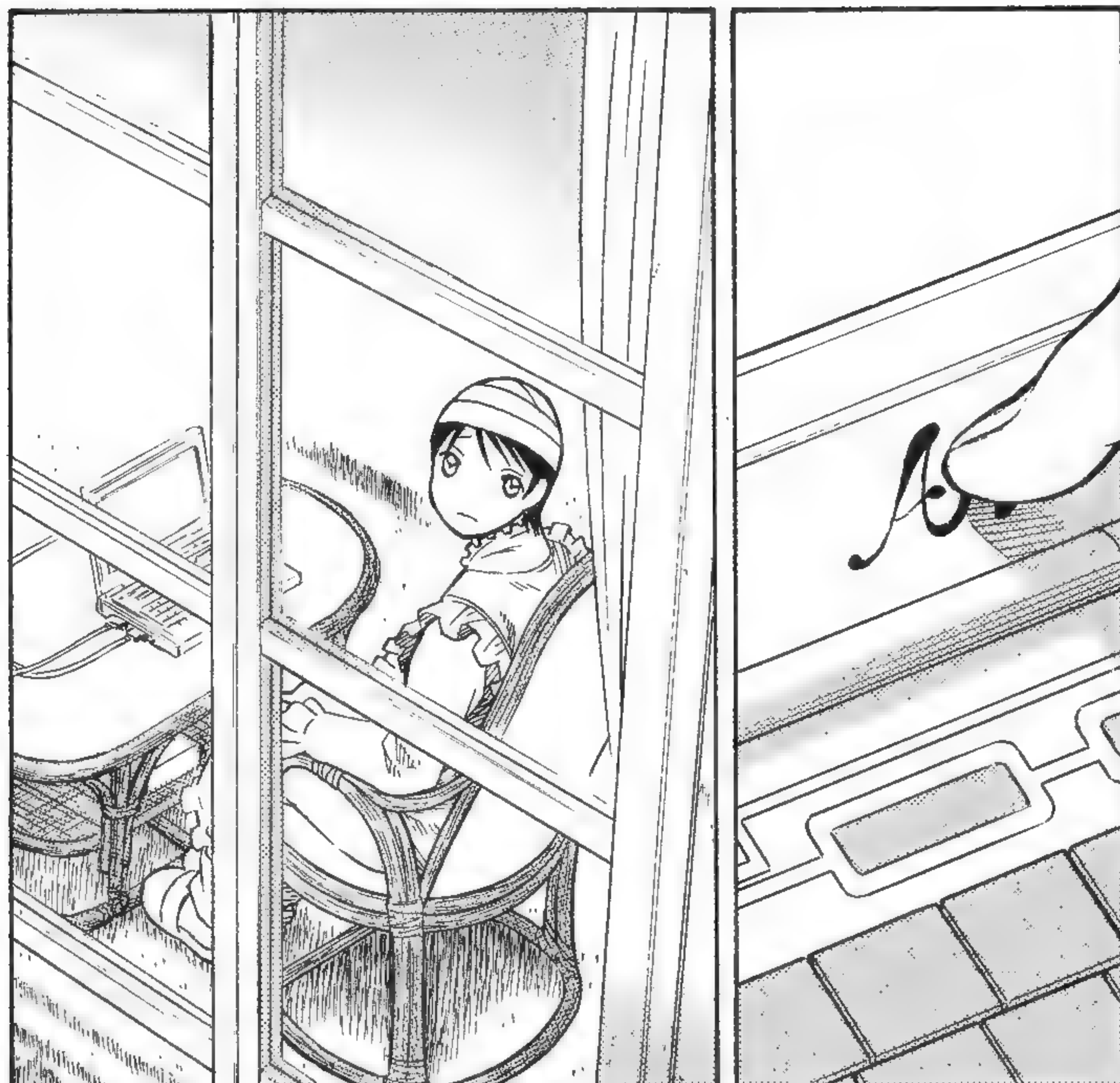
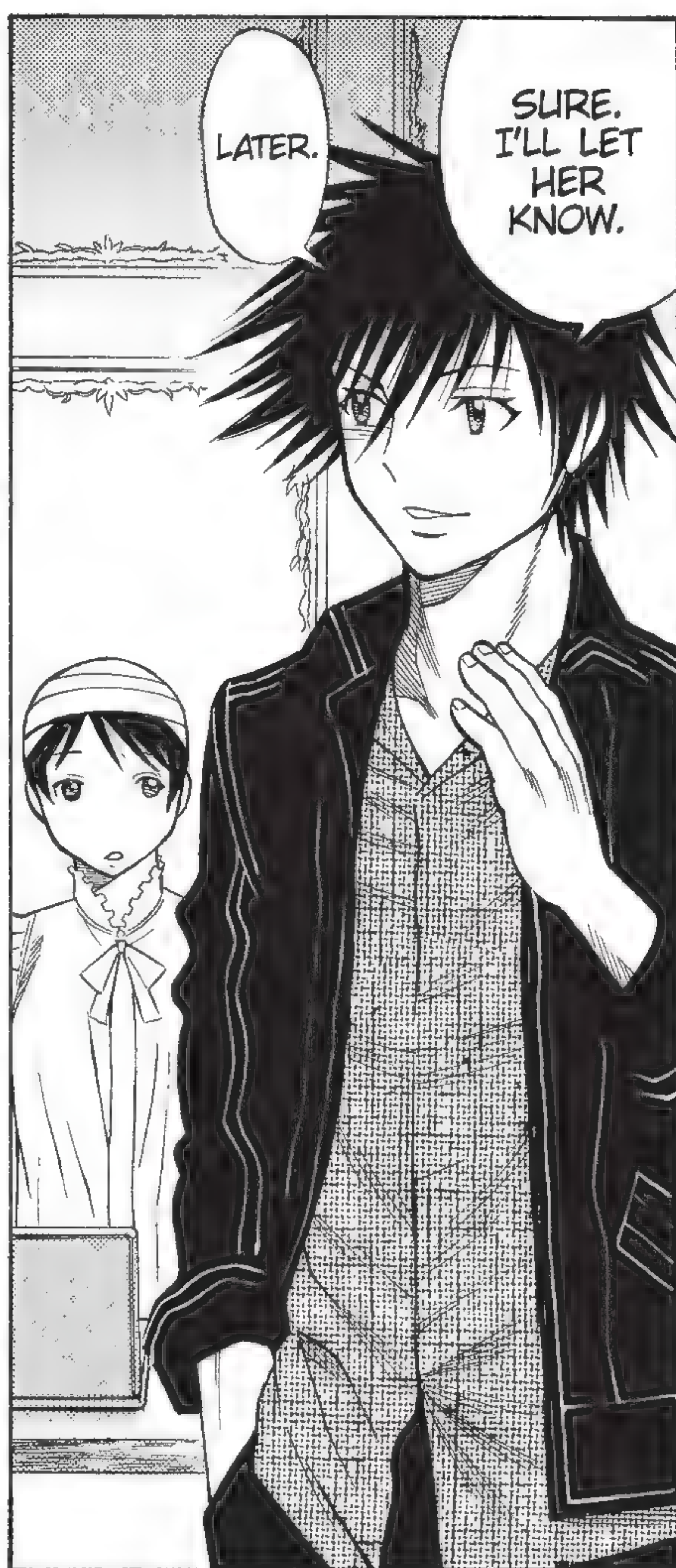
SHE
HASN'T
COME TO
SEE YOU
IN AGES
EITHER,
RIGHT?
IT'S SO
WEIRD...

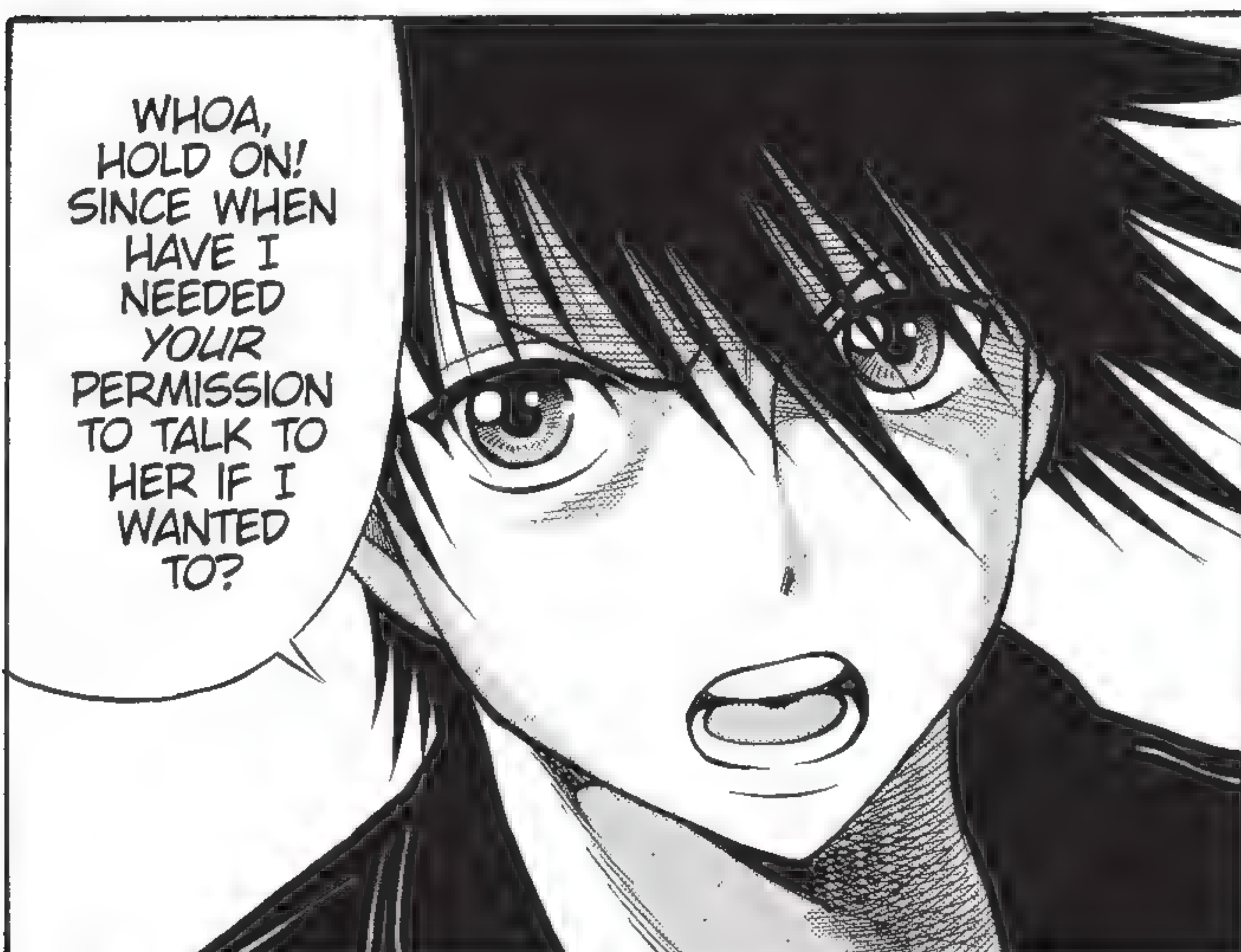
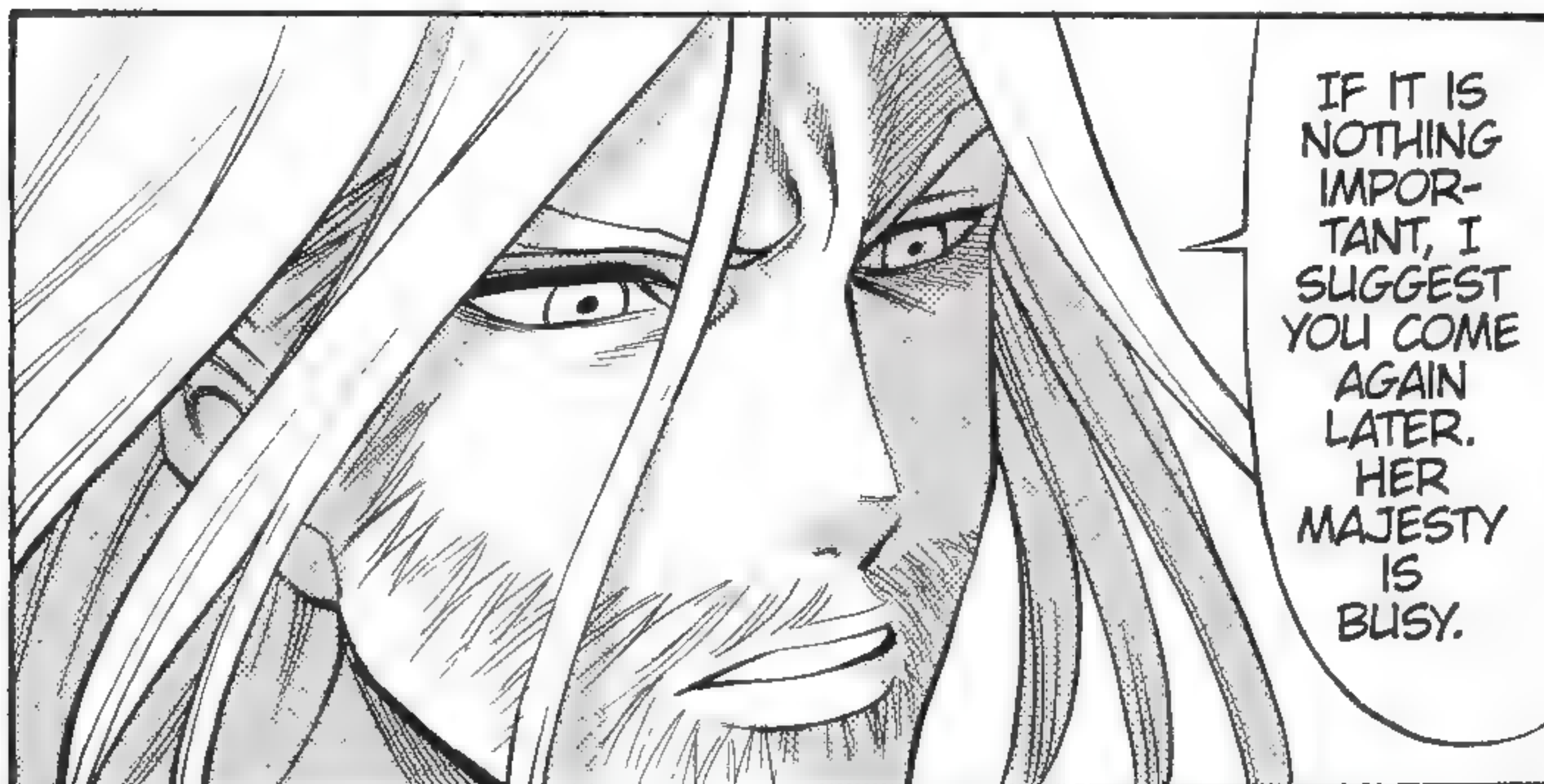
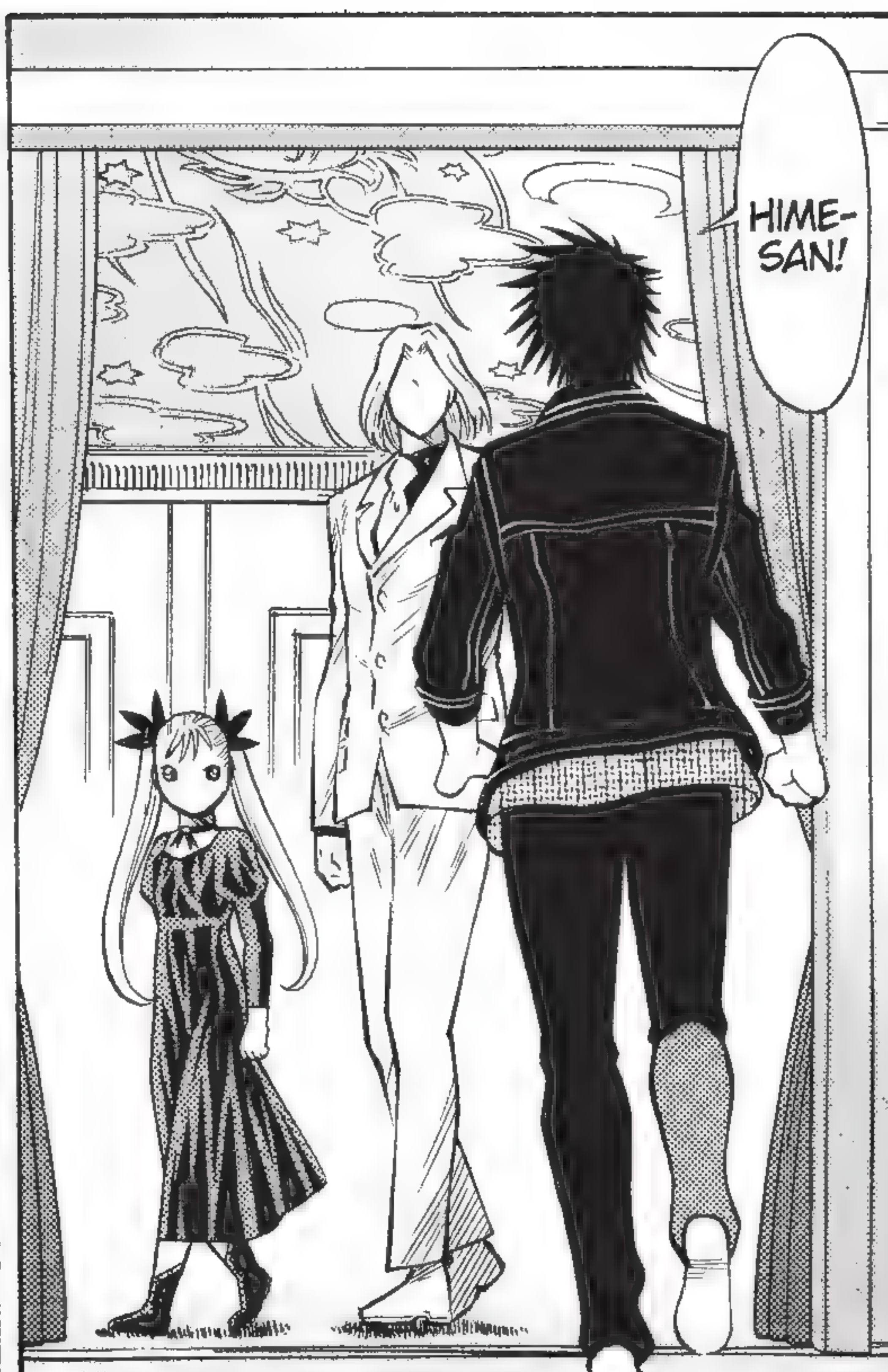
AND THEN
THERE'S THE
FACT THAT
YUZURU IS
STILL
MISSING.
SHE MUST'VE
TAKEN IT A
LOT HARDER
THAN I
EXPECTED.

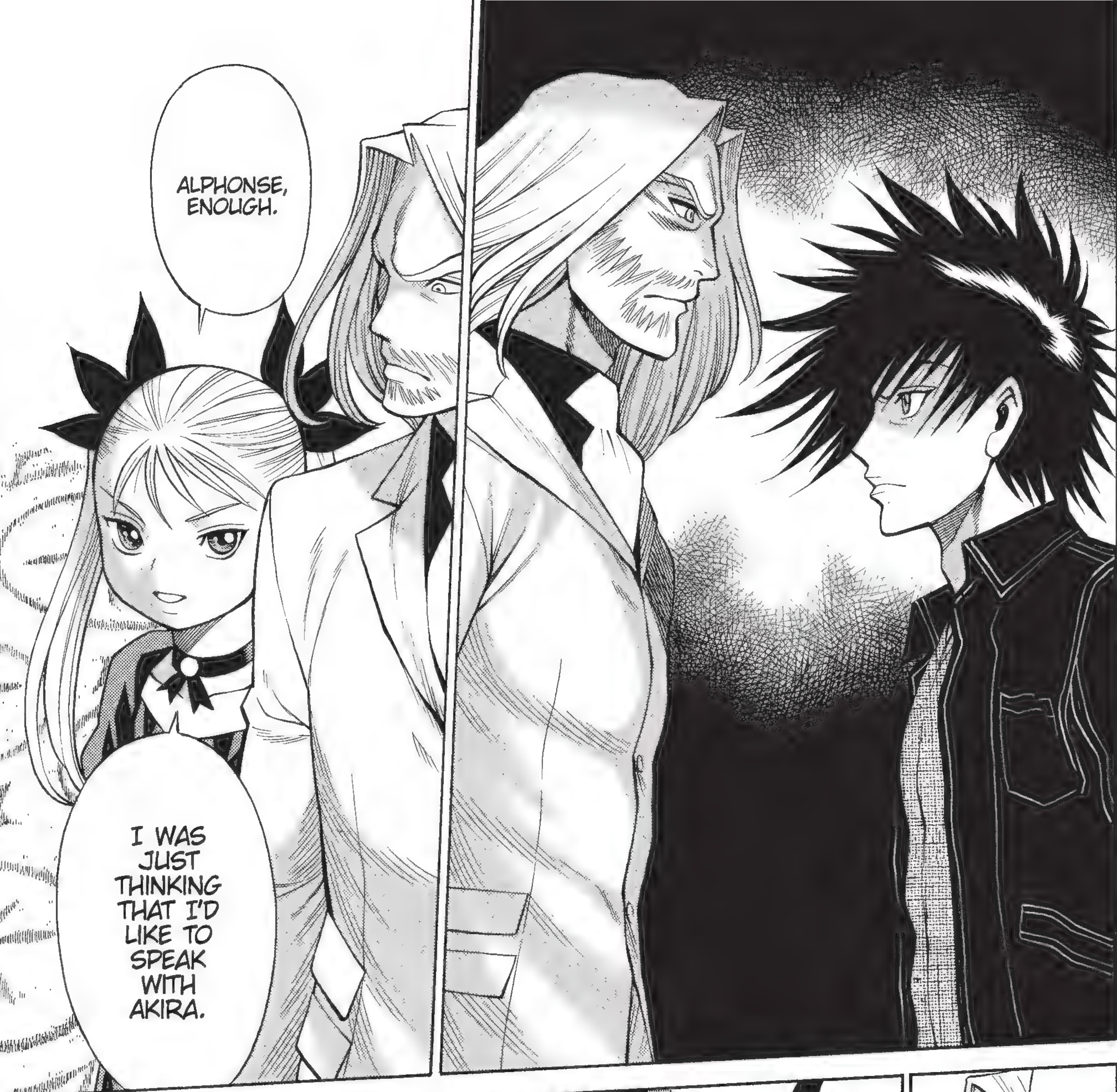












ALPHONSE,
ENOUGH.

I WAS
JUST
THINKING
THAT I'D
LIKE TO
SPEAK
WITH
AKIRA.



I UNDER-
STAND
IT
VERY
WELL.

DON'T
WORRY.

I UNDER-
STAND
WHAT
YOU'RE
TRYING
TO SAY.



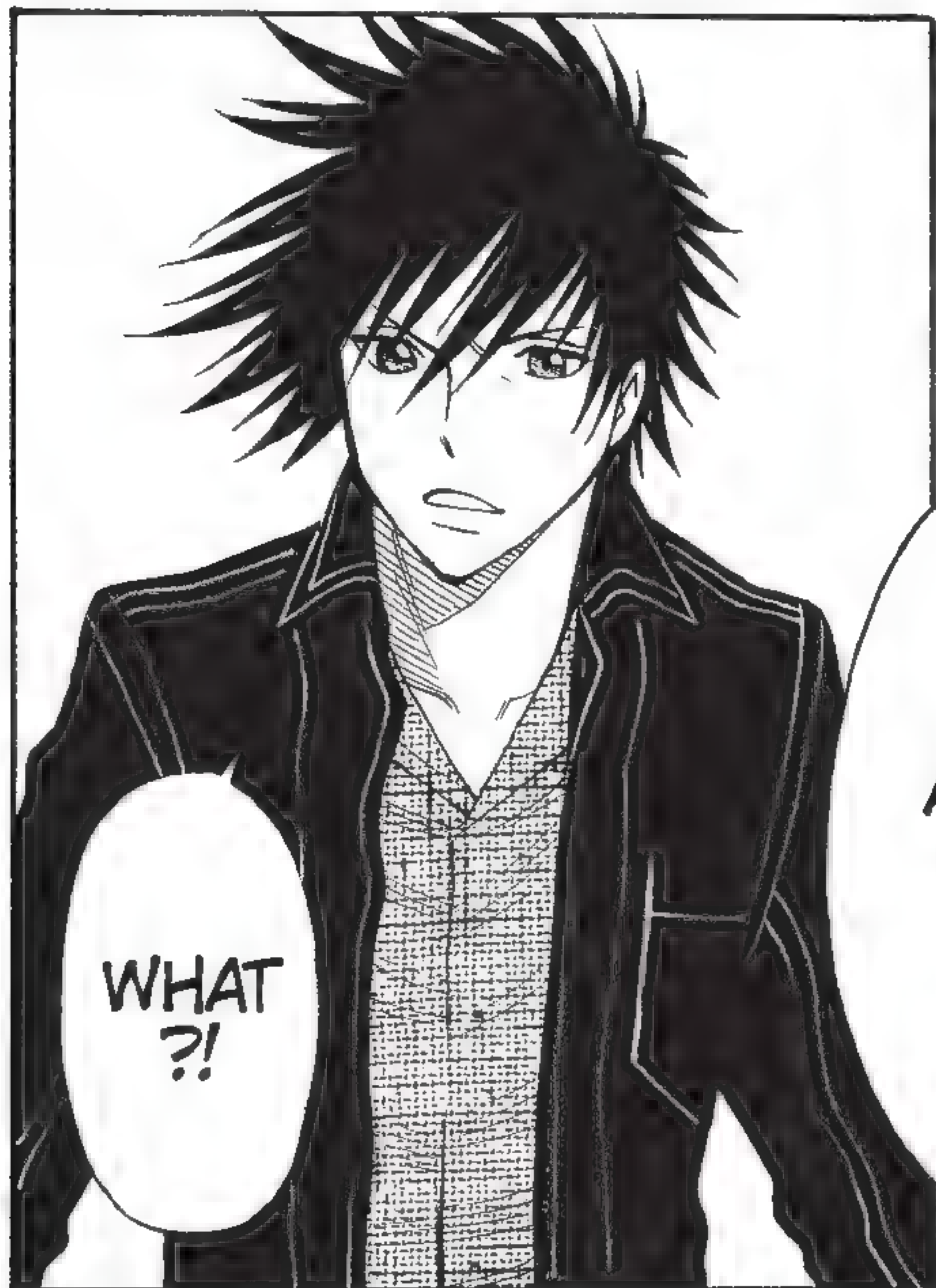
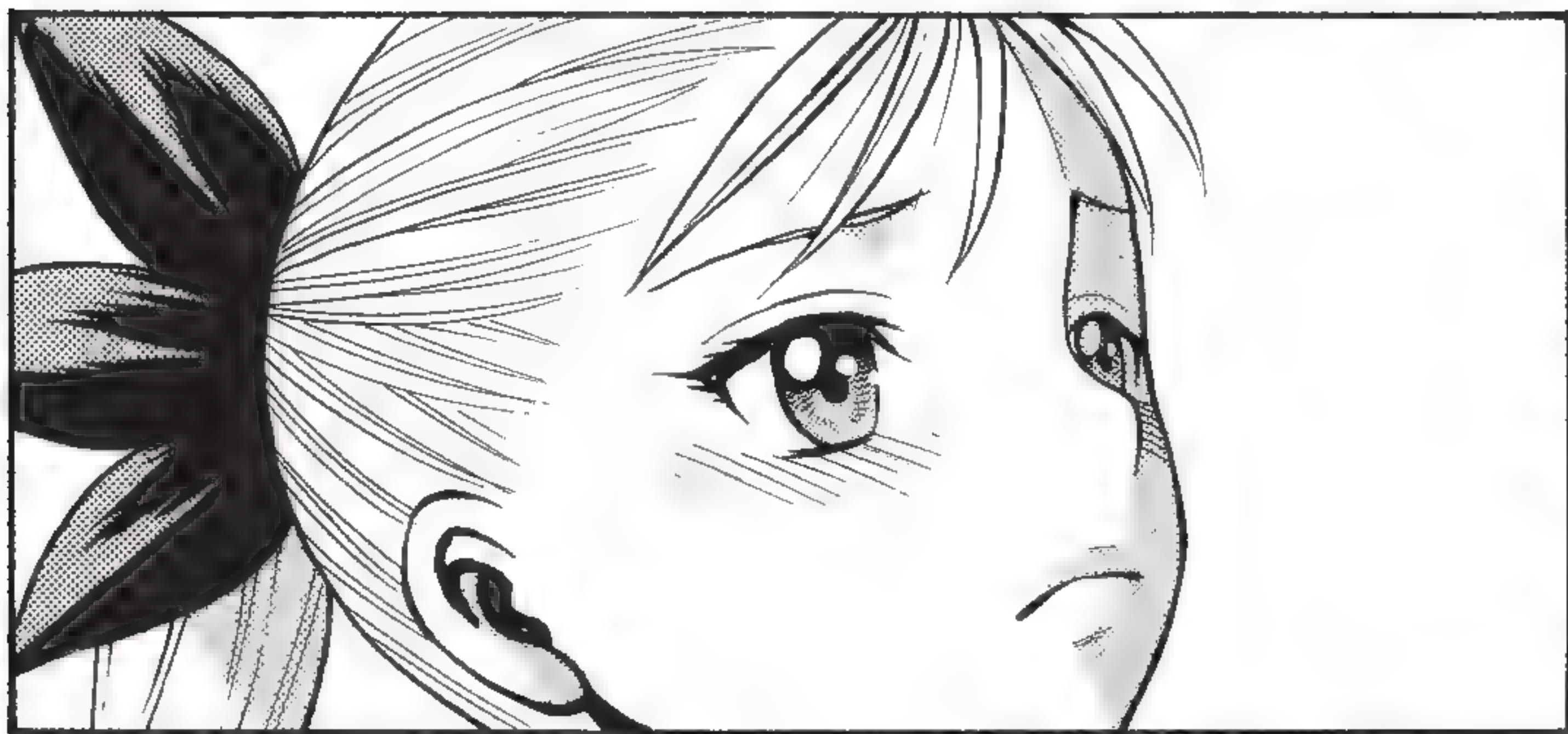
YOUR
MAJ-
ESTY...



YOU
AREN'T
HIDING
ANYTHING
FROM ME,
ARE
YOU?

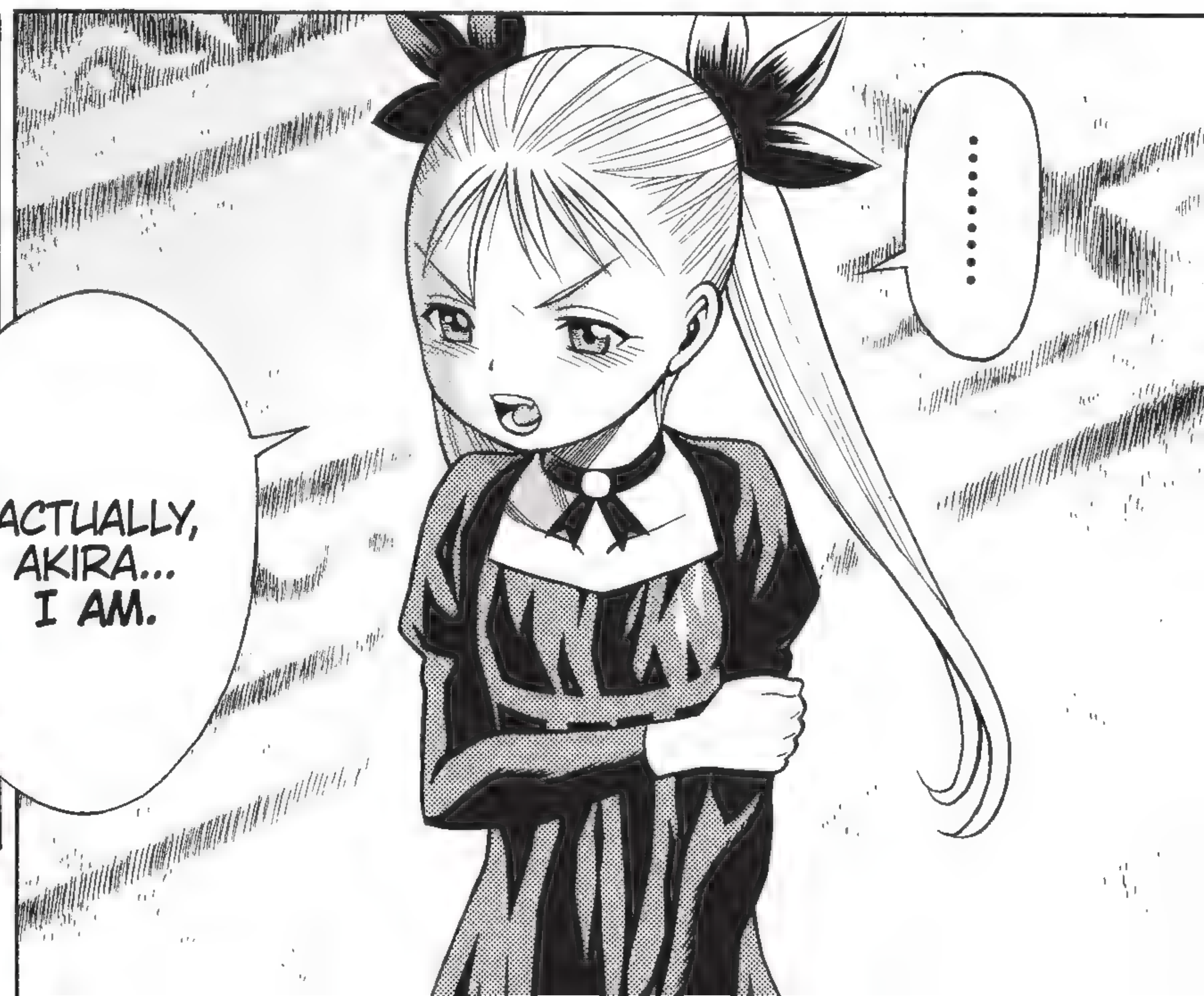


HIME-
SAN...



WHAT
?!

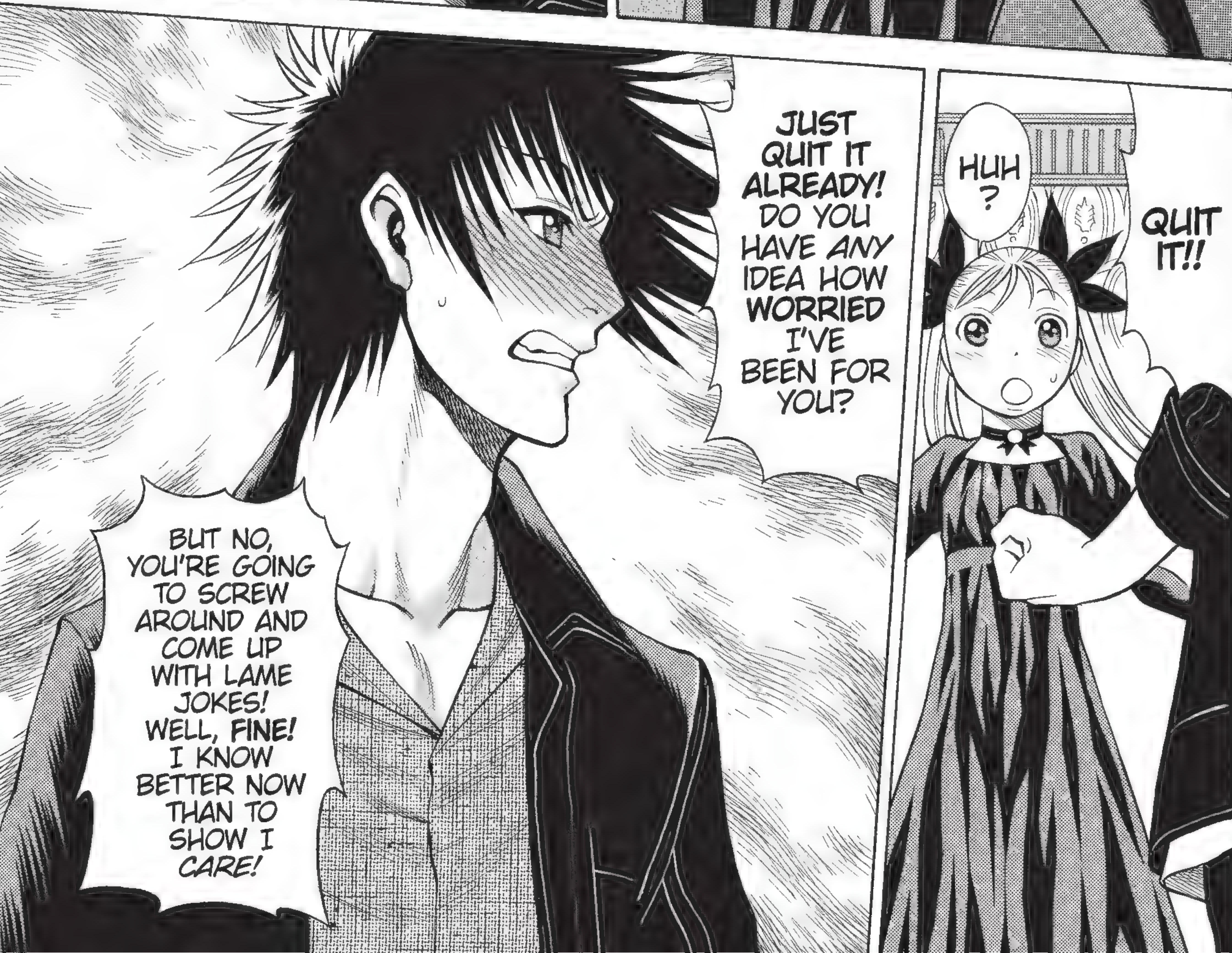
ACTUALLY,
AKIRA...
I AM.





I TRADED
PLACES
WITH THE
REAL MINA,
AND SENT
HER OFF
INTO THE
DARKNESS.
SHE'S GONE
NOW,
AND WILL
NEVER
COME
BACK.

I'M NOT
REALLY
MINA.
I'M AN
IMPOSTER.
A FAKE
CREATED
TO LOOK
JUST LIKE
HER!

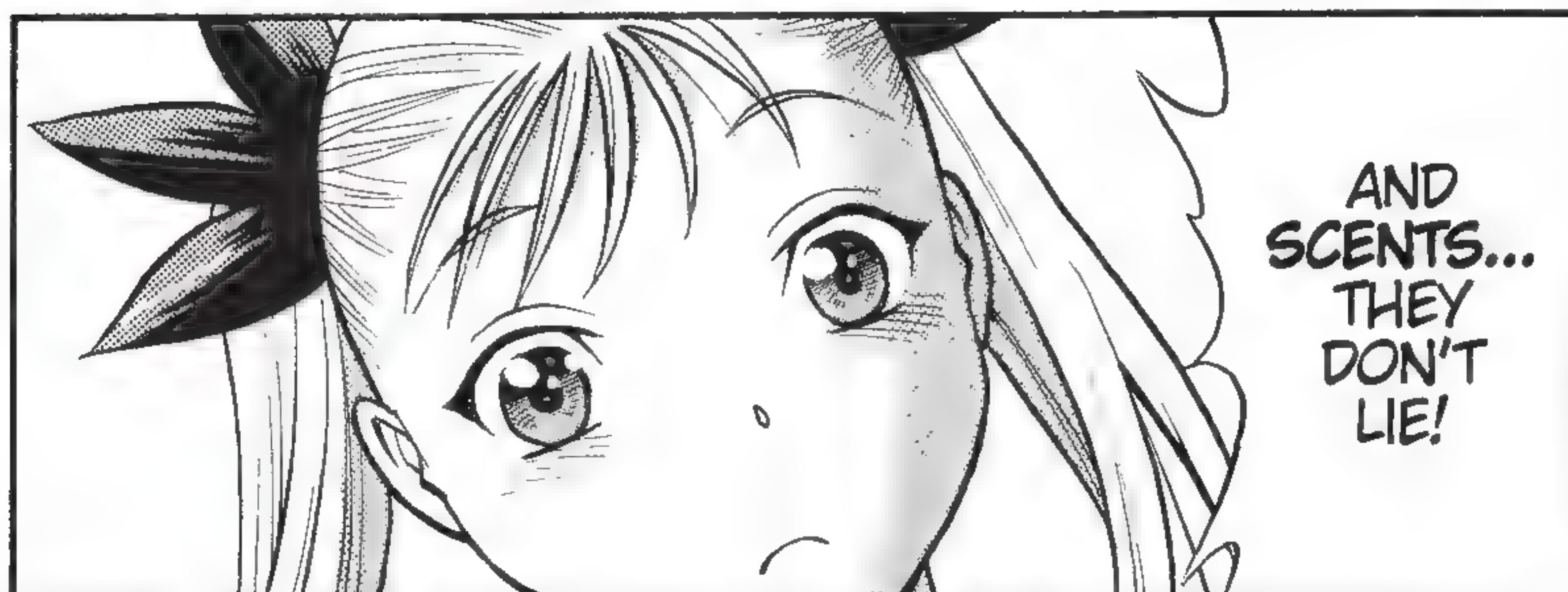


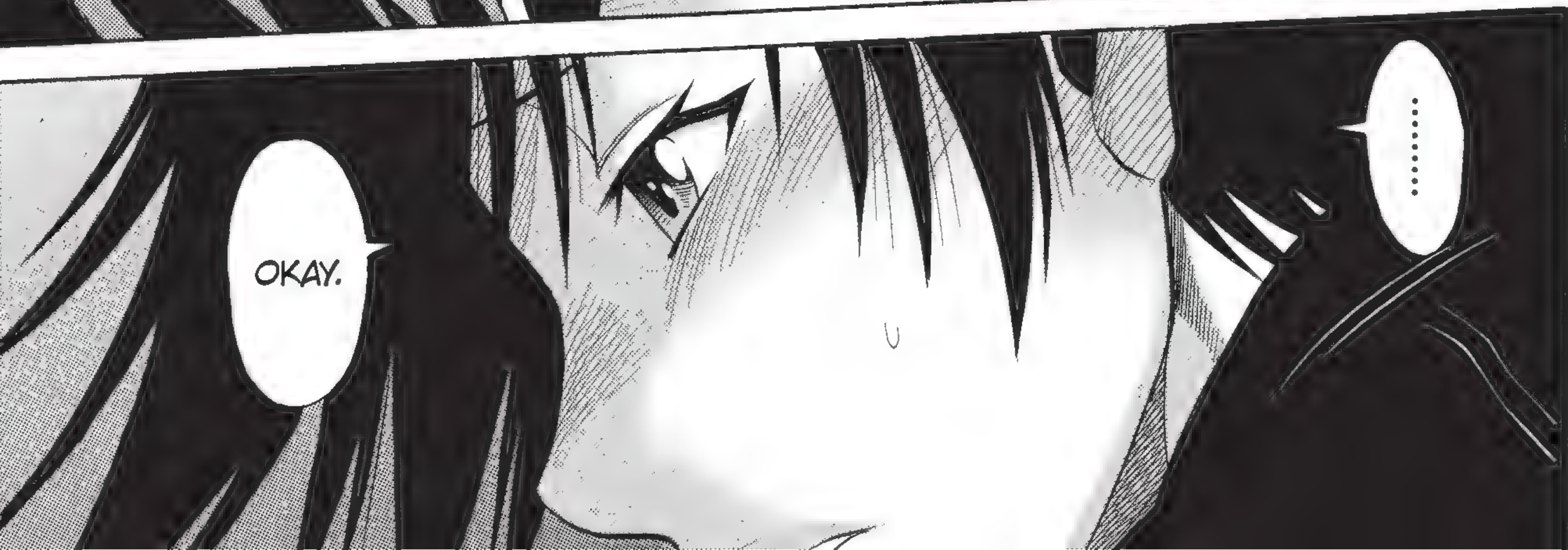
JUST
QUIT IT
ALREADY!
DO YOU
HAVE ANY
IDEA HOW
WORRIED
I'VE
BEEN FOR
YOU?

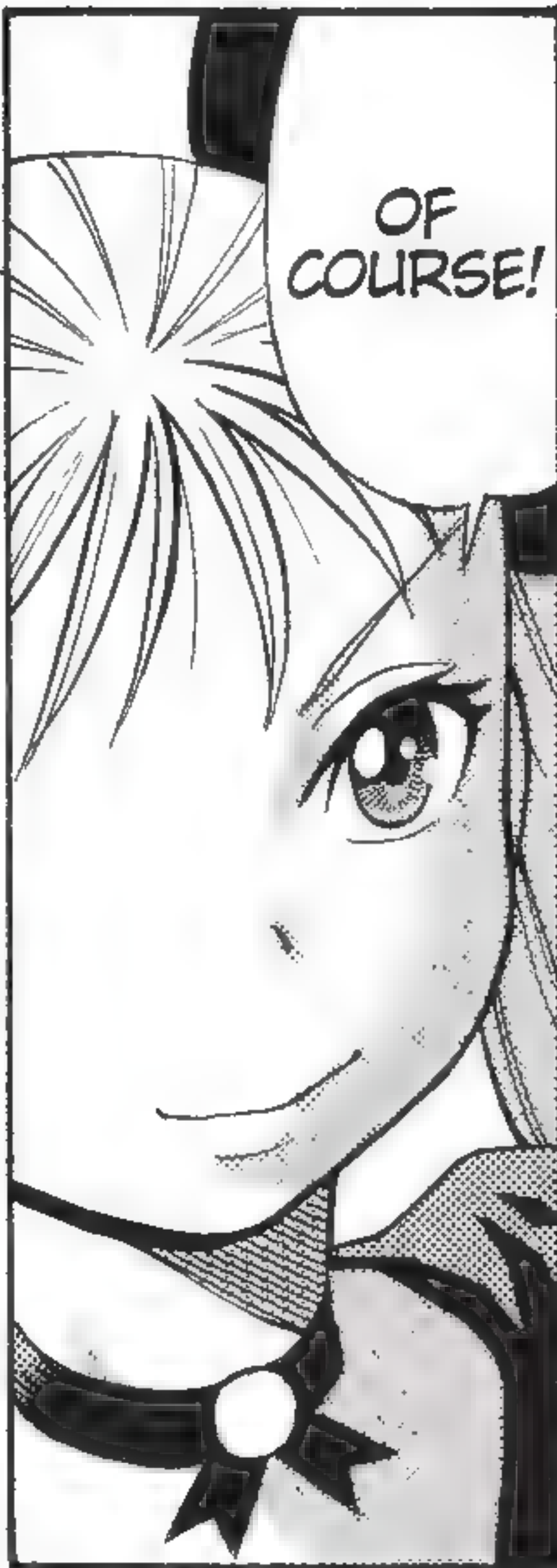
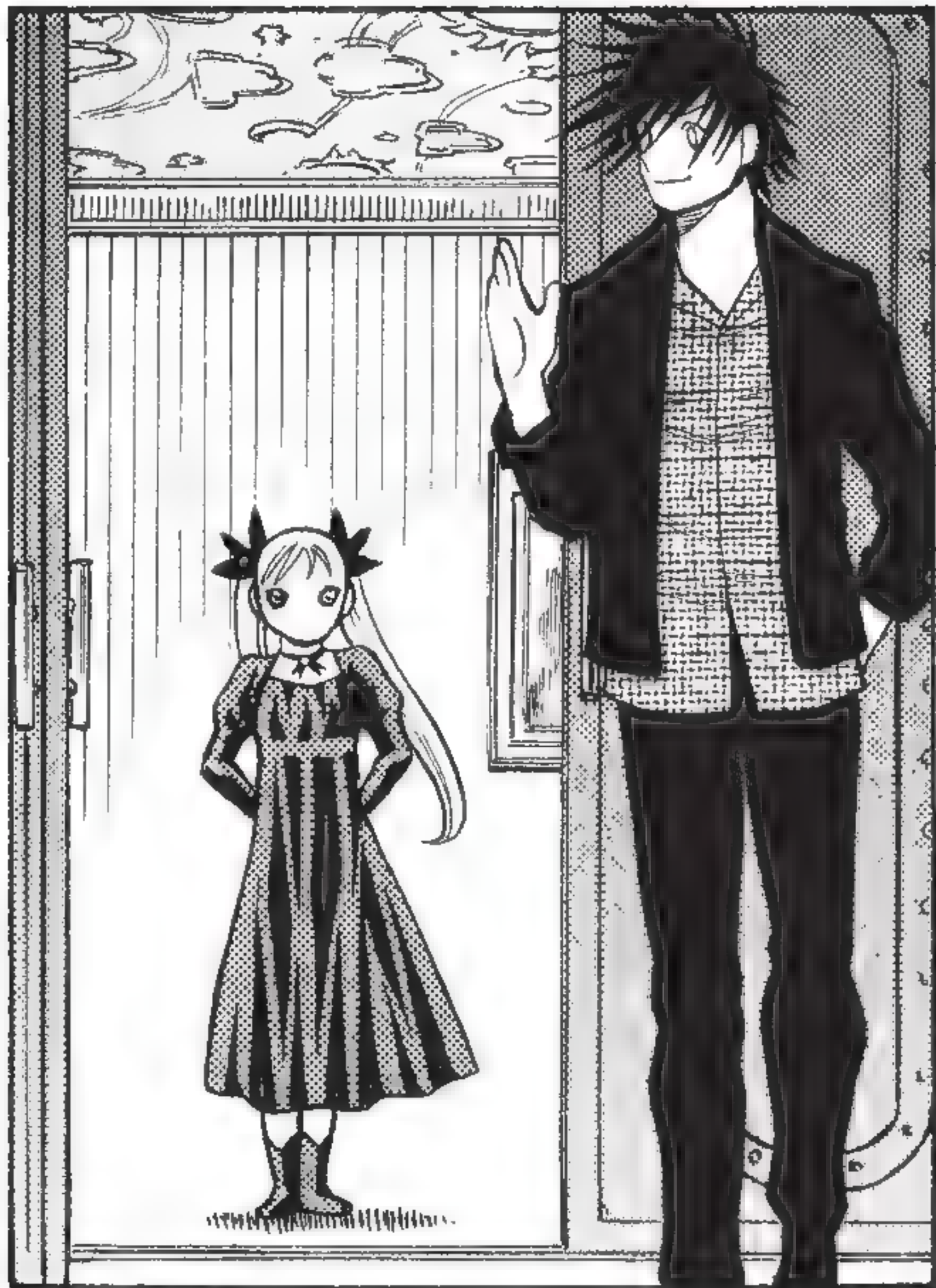
BUT NO,
YOU'RE GOING
TO SCREW
AROUND AND
COME UP
WITH LAME
JOKES!
WELL, FINE!
I KNOW
BETTER NOW
THAN TO
SHOW I
CARE!

HUH
?

QUIT
IT!!







OF
COURSE!



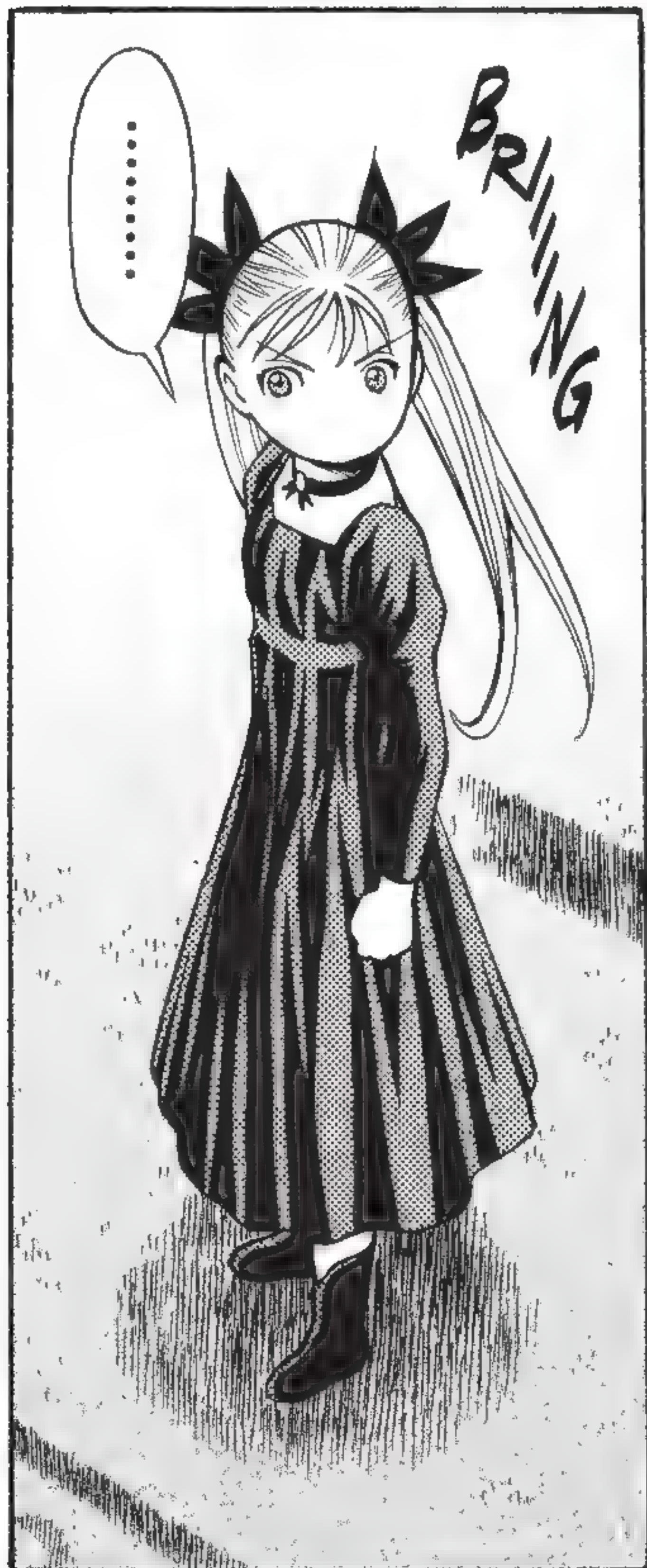
DON'T
FORGET
ABOUT
YUKI.
SHE
MISSES
YOU...

IF
YOU'VE
GOT THE
TIME,
GO VISIT
HER
EVERY
NOW AND
AGAIN,
OKAY?



MY,
MY.

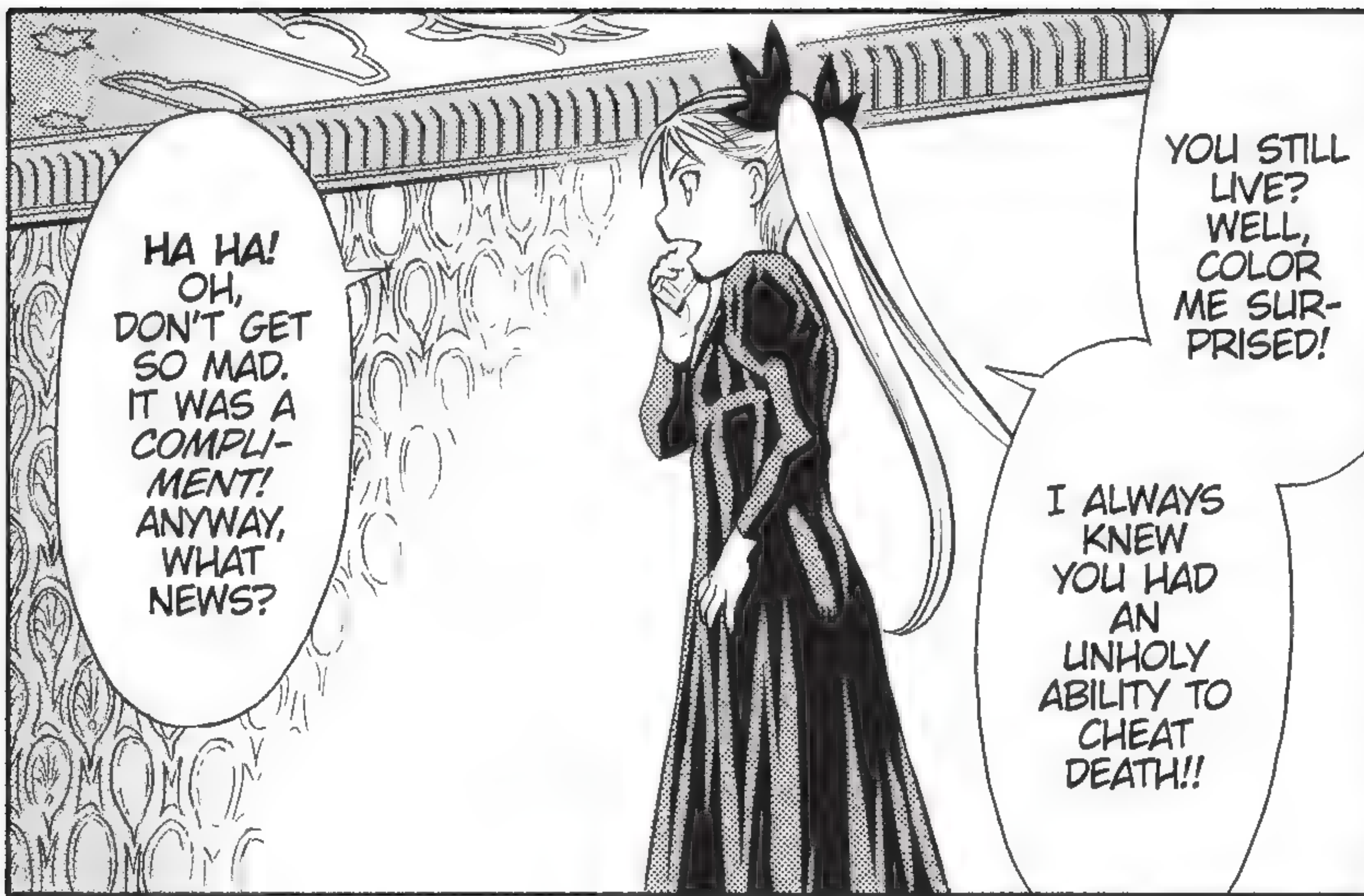
"SCENTS
DON'T LIE,"
HM...



BRING



ARE YOU
CERTAIN
YOU
SHOULD
BELIEVE
THAT,
MY LITTLE
WOLF-
BOY?



HA HA!
OH,
DON'T GET
SO MAD.
IT WAS A
COMPLI-
MENT!
ANYWAY,
WHAT
NEWS?

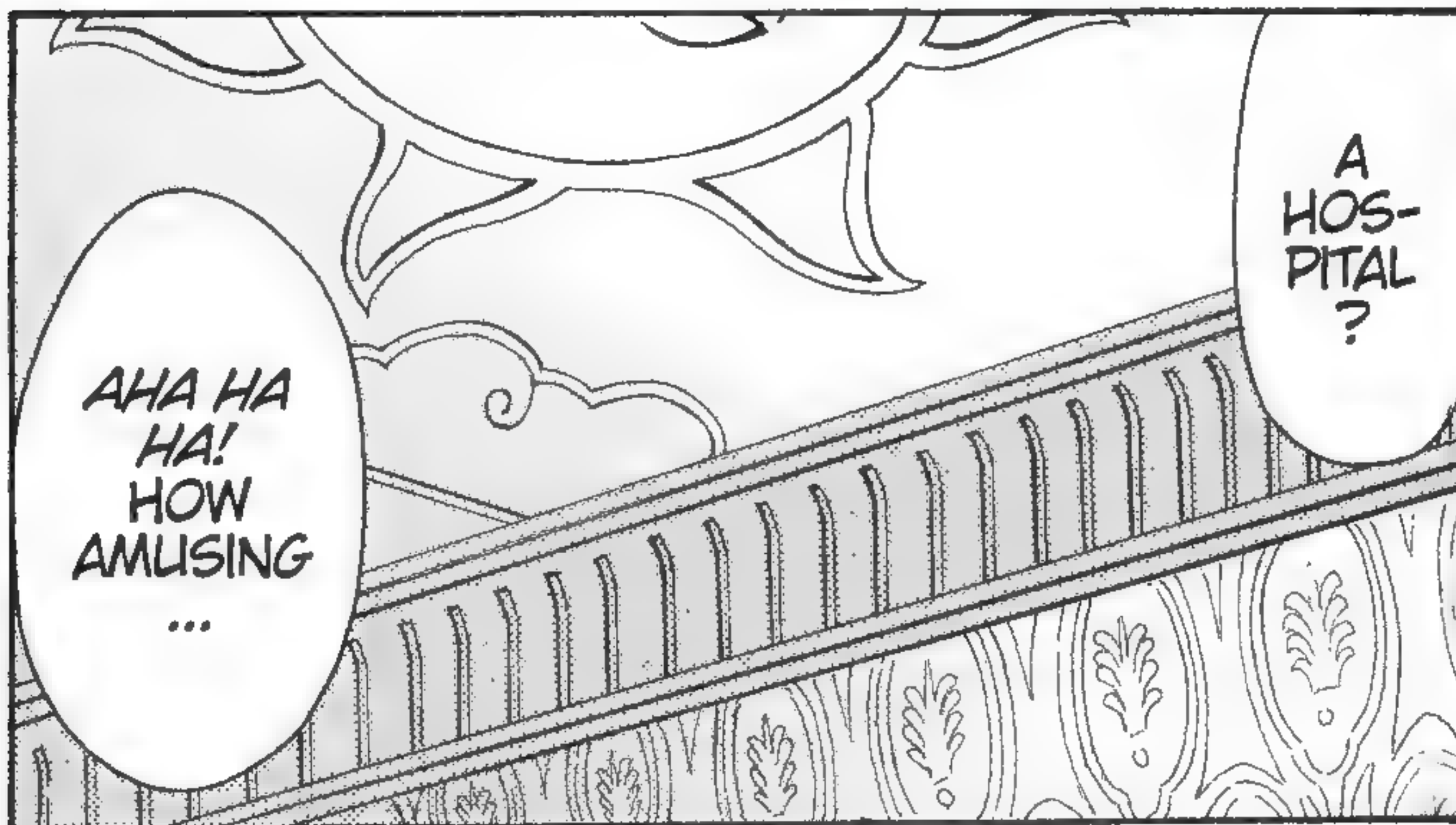
YOU STILL
LIVE?
WELL,
COLOR
ME SUR-
PRISED!

I ALWAYS
KNEW
YOU HAD
AN
UNHOLY
ABILITY TO
CHEAT
DEATH!!



REALLY
?!

IT'S
ME...



AHA HA
HA!
HOW
AMUSING
...

A
HOS-
PITAL
?



MY,
SUCH
LANGUAGE!
OH, STOP
COMPLAINING
SO
MUCH...

I WILL
SPEAK
WITH YOU
AGAIN
LATER.

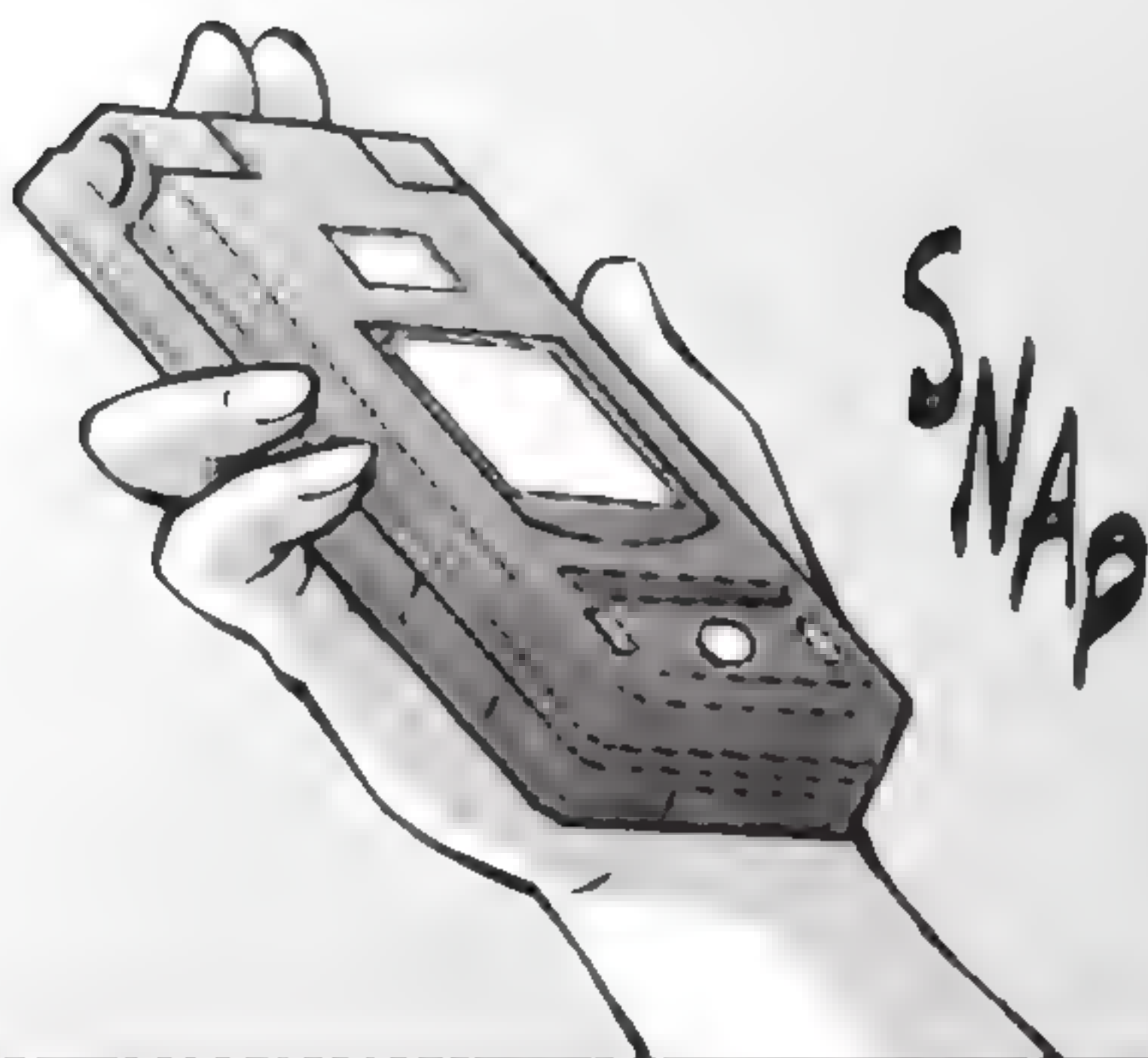
EXCELLENT.
NOW IS
WHEN WE
WILL GET
TRULY BUSY.
I WILL HAVE
PLENTY FOR
YOU TO DO,
SO BE
READY.



AAH,
SO IT
HAS
BEGIN
...?

WHERE
WAS IT
DISCOVERED
?

AND
SO THE
FIRST
SPARK
HAS
FLOWN.



HEH
HEH
HEH...

THIS
WRETCHED
COUNTRY!

THE
WHOLE
OF THIS
DISGLIST-
ING
WORLD!

BEFORE
LONG,
THAT TINY
FLAME
WILL
GROW
INTO A
RAGING
BLAZE...

EVERY-
THING
THAT
EXISTS
WILL BE
BURNED
TO
ASH!!

AND FROM
THERE,
INTO AN
ENORMOUS
CONFLAGRATION
THAT WILL
CONSUME
EVERYTHING
IN ITS
PATH!!

OH,
I DO
HOPE
SO!!

WELL, MINA?
WHAT DO YOU
THINK?
ARE YOU
WATCHING,
HELPLESSLY
BOUND IN
WHATEVER
NAMELESS
DARKNESS
HOLDS YOU
NOW?!





YO,
JESSICA.

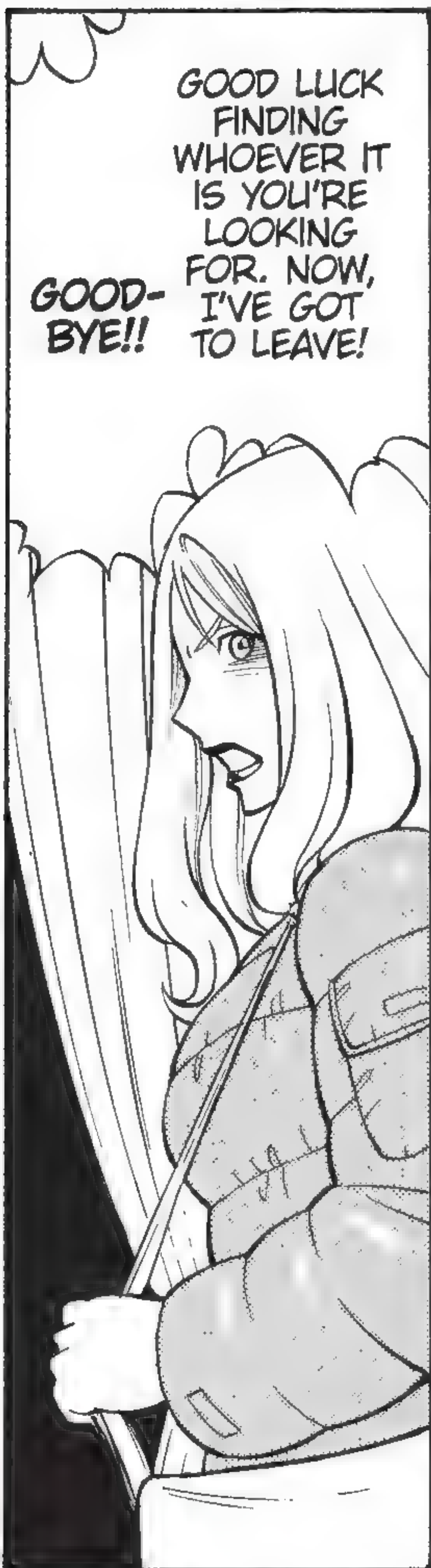
NICE
JOB
OUT
THERE.



THANKS.

BE
CAREFUL,
OKAY?
A REAL
CREEP
JUST
CAME
IN.

GOOD
LUCK
OUT
THERE...



GOOD-
BYE!!

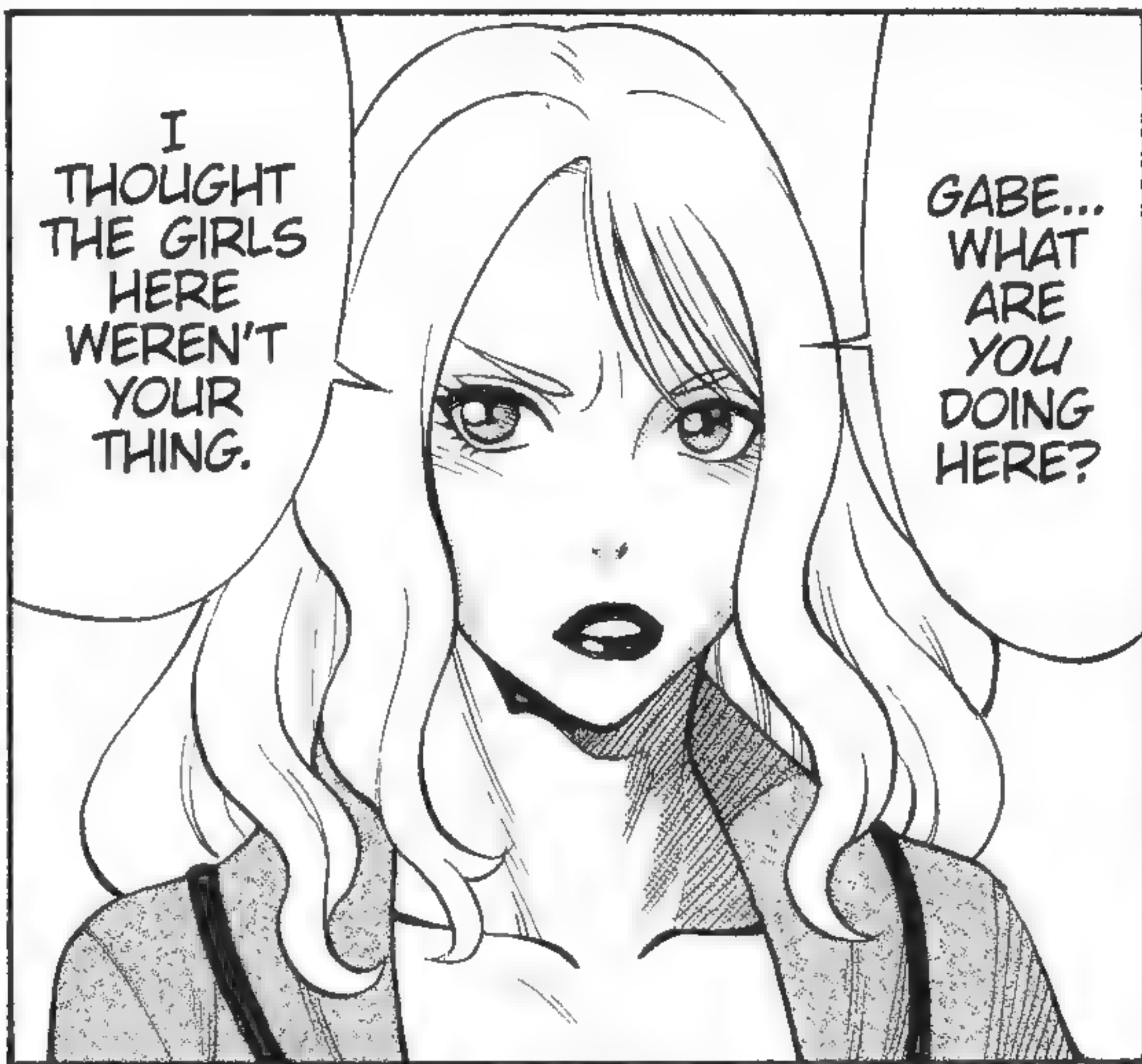
GOOD LUCK
FINDING
WHOEVER IT
IS YOU'RE
LOOKING
FOR. NOW,
I'VE GOT
TO LEAVE!



I WAS
JUST TRYIN'
TO BE POLITE,
AN' SAY "HI."
BY THE WAY,
HOW'S YOUR
LITTLE GIRL
DOIN'? SUSY,
WAS IT?
HOW OLD
IS SHE
NOW?

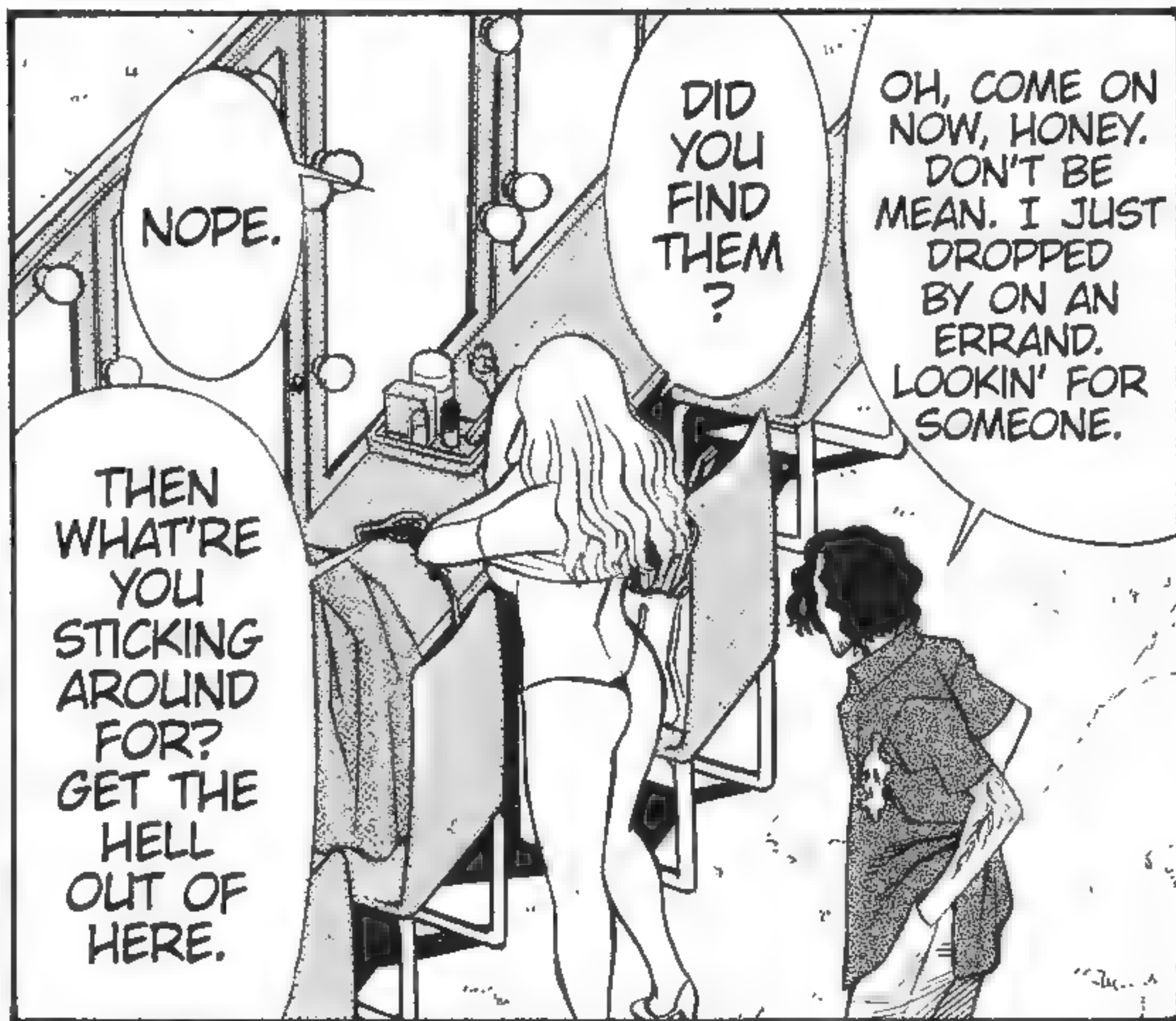
TSK,
TSK.
SUCH A
MOUTH
ON YOU,
HONEY...

THAT'S
NONE
OF
YOUR
BUSI-
NESS!!



I
THOUGHT
THE GIRLS
HERE
WEREN'T
YOUR
THING.

GABE...
WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING
HERE?



NOPE.

THEN
WHAT'RE
YOU
STICKING
AROUND
FOR?
GET THE
HELL
OUT OF
HERE.

DID
YOU
FIND
THEM
?

OH, COME ON
NOW, HONEY.
DON'T BE
MEAN. I JUST
DROPPED
BY ON AN
ERRAND.
LOOKIN' FOR
SOMEONE.



HE EVEN
HAD THE
NERVE TO
COME UP
AND ASK
ME HOW
OLD MY
BABY SUSY
WAS!
I HAD A
HELL OF A
TIME NOT
THROWING
UP RIGHT
ON THE
SPOT!!

BUT THAT
MAN IS A
CERTIFIED
CHILD
MOLESTER!
HELL,
HE MAKES
HIS LIVING
OFF OF
CHILD
PORN!!



AIN'T
GOT MUCH
CHOICE ON
THAT ONE.
HIS GANG'S
THE ONE
THAT RUNS
THIS TURF
AN' ALL.

MILES!
HOW COULD
YOU LET
THAT SLIME
INTO THE
"BACKYARD"
?!



SHIT!!



HEY.
YOU GOT
PROBLEMS
WITH THE
WAY WE
DO THINGS
HERE, YOU
GO FIND
ANOTHER
JOB.

ASSUMIN'
YOU'RE
GOOD FOR
ANYTHING
BESIDES
SHAKIN'
YOUR
NAKED ASS
AROUND,
THAT IS.



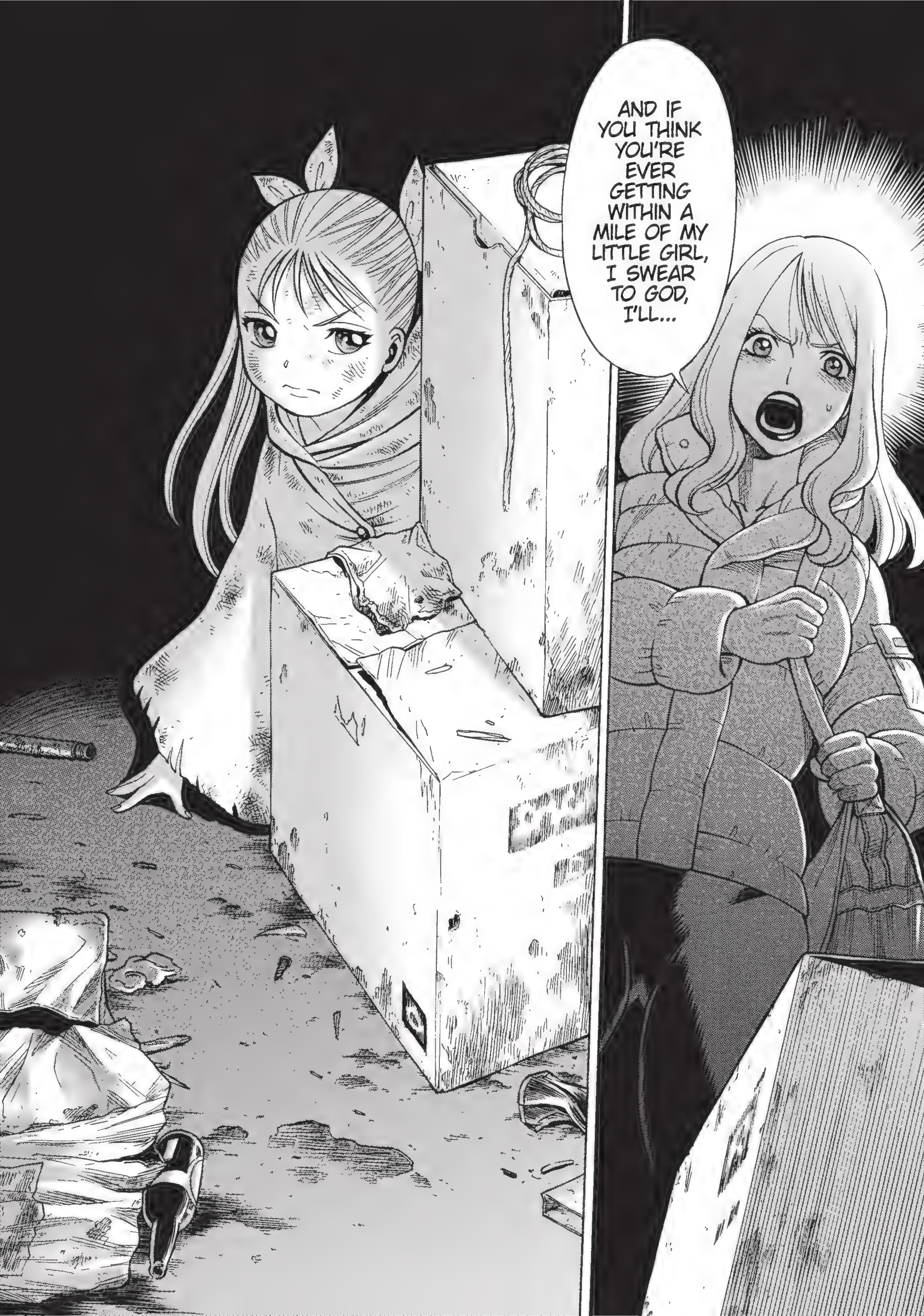
COME
OUT
HERE
WHERE
I CAN
SEE
YOU,
YOU
SLEAZE!!

WHO'S
THERE?!
IS
THAT
YOU,
GABE?!



THUNK

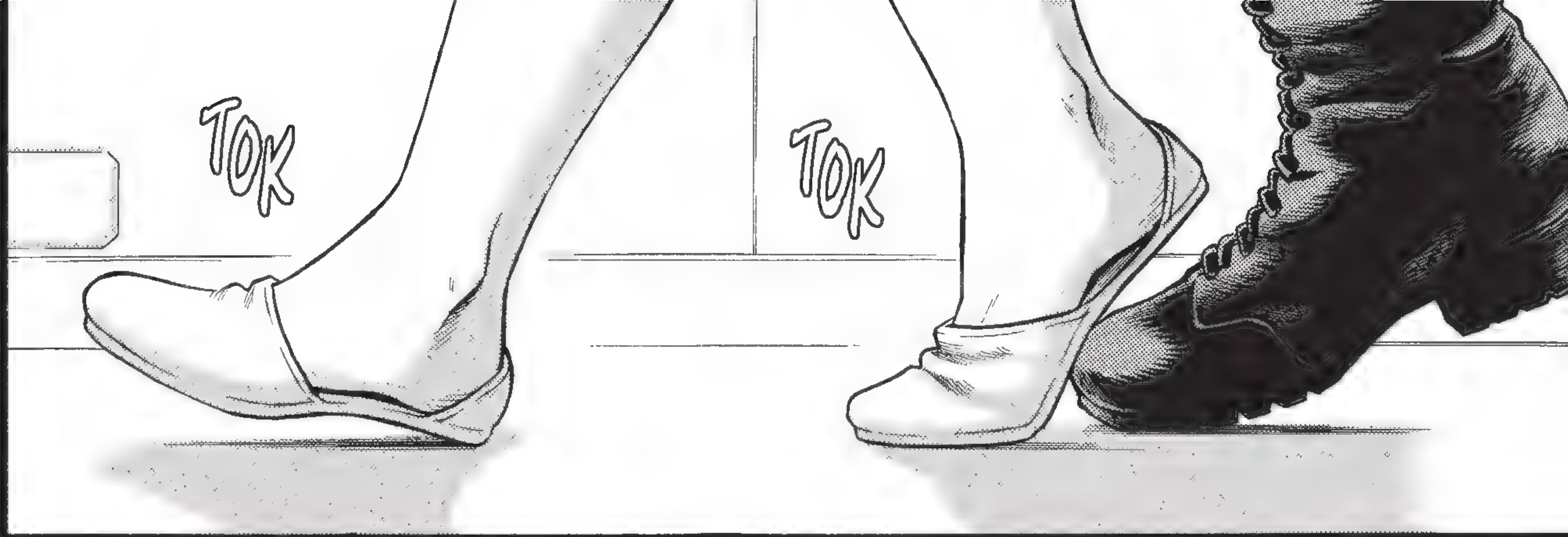
!



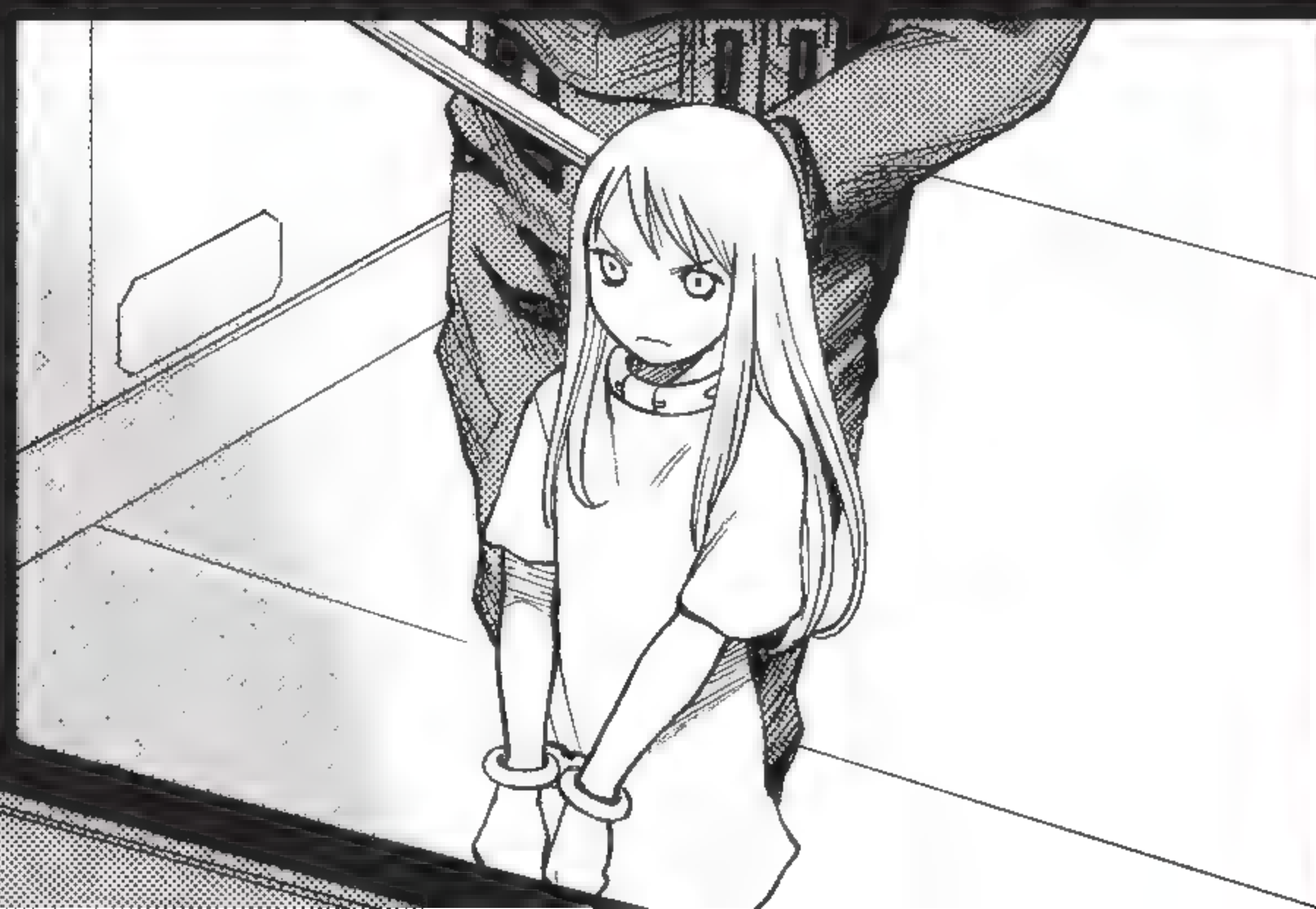
AND IF
YOU THINK
YOU'RE
EVER
GETTING
WITHIN A
MILE OF MY
LITTLE GIRL,
I SWEAR
TO GOD,
I'LL...



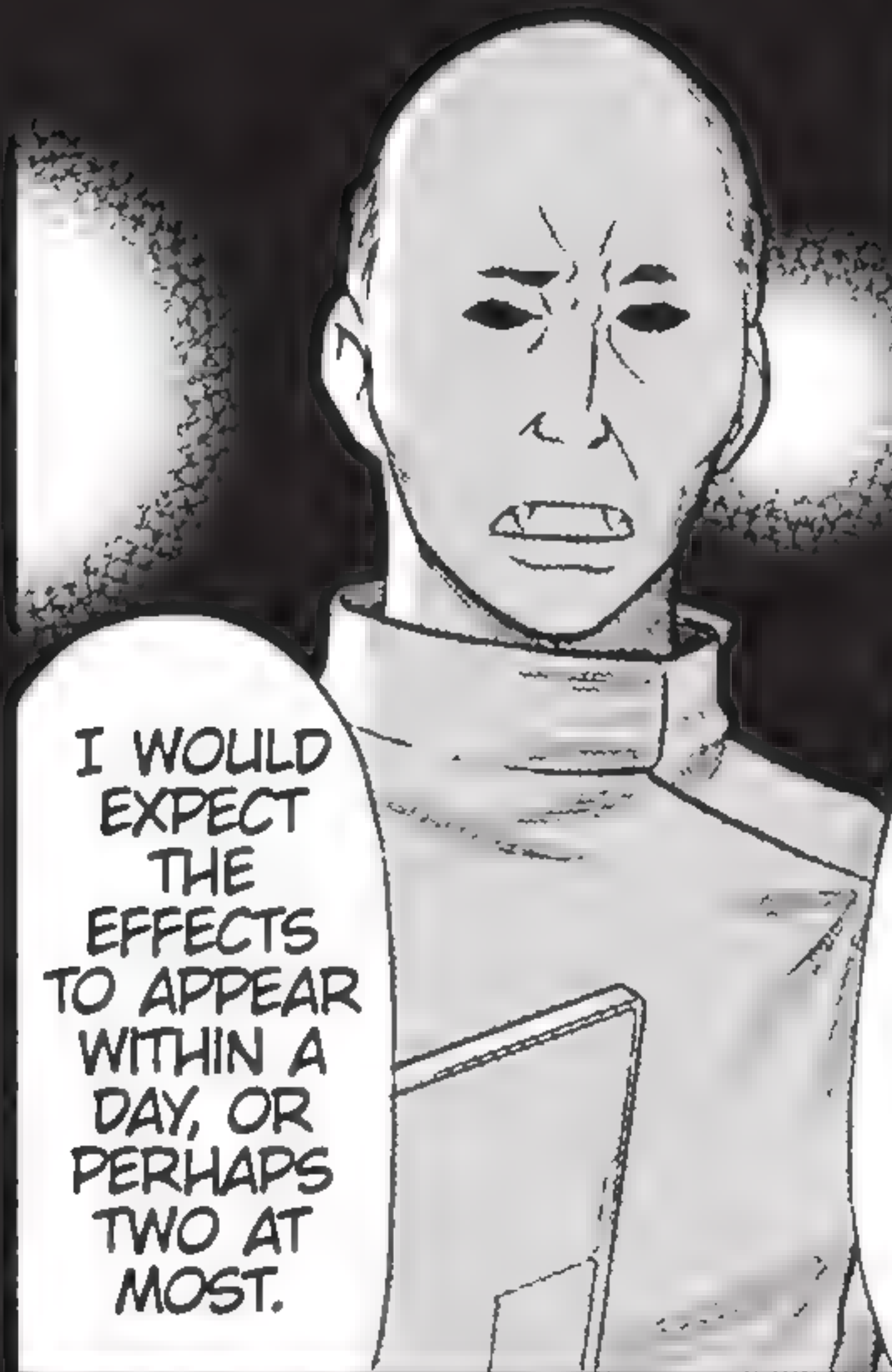
Chapter 56: Like Anne Frank



EXCEL-
LENTLY,
M'LORD.



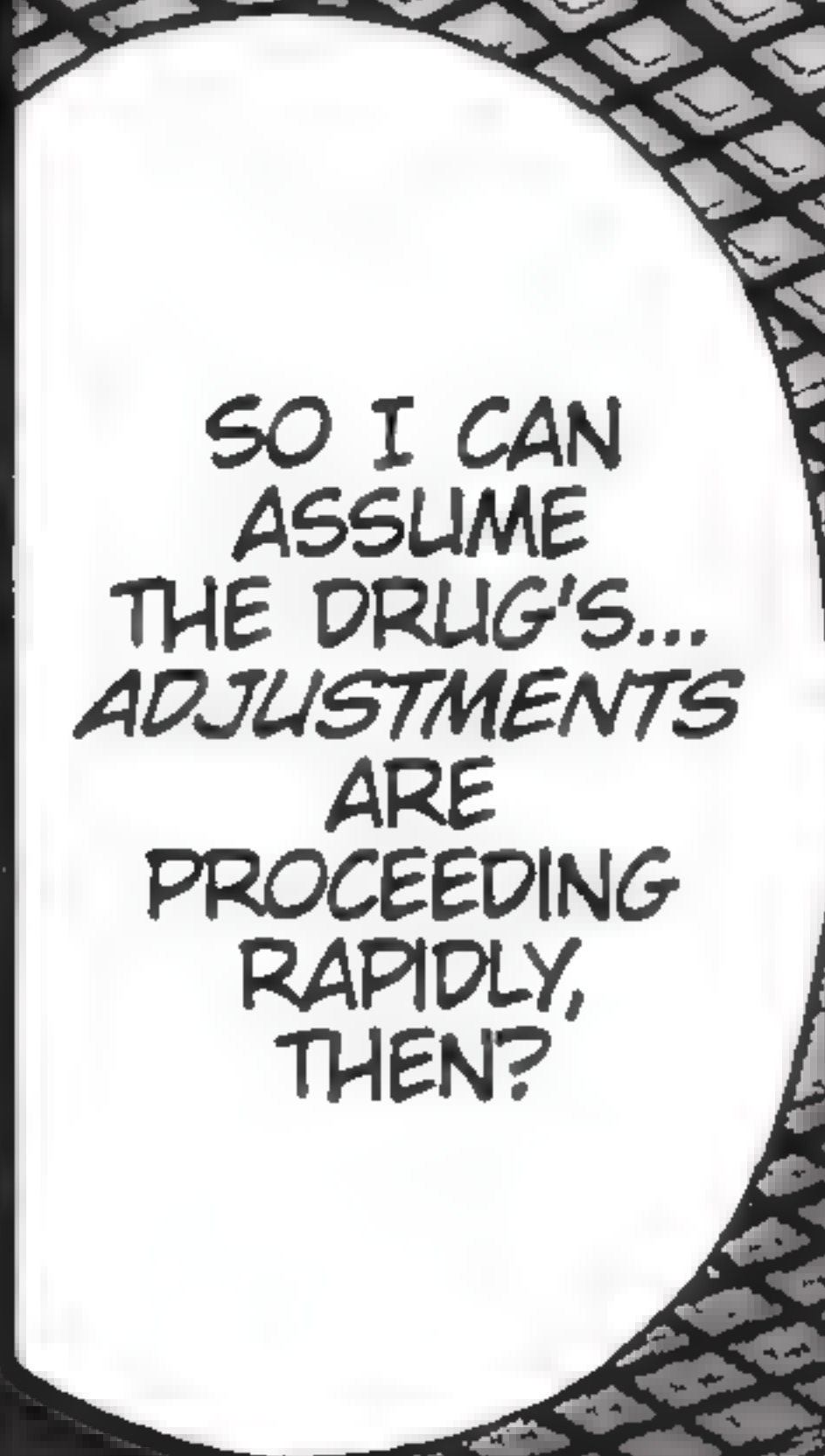
HOW
ARE THE
EXPERIMENTS
UPON THE
PRINCESS
PROCEEDING
?



I WOULD EXPECT THE EFFECTS TO APPEAR WITHIN A DAY, OR PERHAPS TWO AT MOST.

OF COURSE, M'LORD. THE DOSES ARE STILL QUITE SMALL...

BUT WE HAVE BEGUN ADDING IT TO EVERY MEAL THAT HER MAJESTY PARTAKES.



SO I CAN ASSUME THE DRUG'S... ADJUSTMENTS ARE PROCEEDING RAPIDLY, THEN?



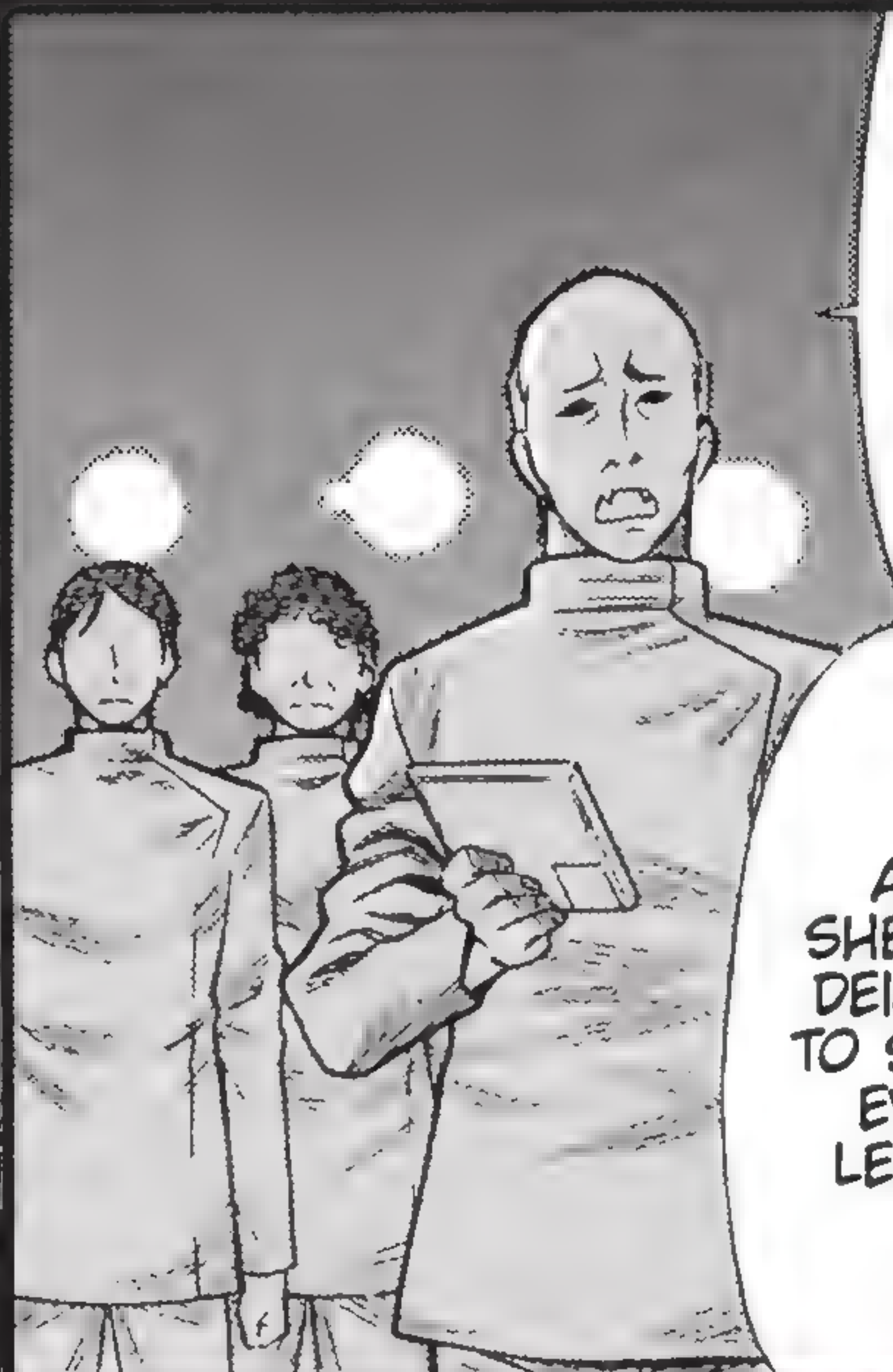
THEN MY WEDDING NIGHT MAY FINALLY BE NIGH.

I SEE...



HEH
HEH
HEH
...

SMIRK



HER MAJESTY IS A MOST STUBBORN GUEST, M'LORD. SHE HAS BARELY SLEPT AT ALL THIS PAST MONTH.

AND SHE HAS DEIGNED TO SPEAK EVEN LESS...



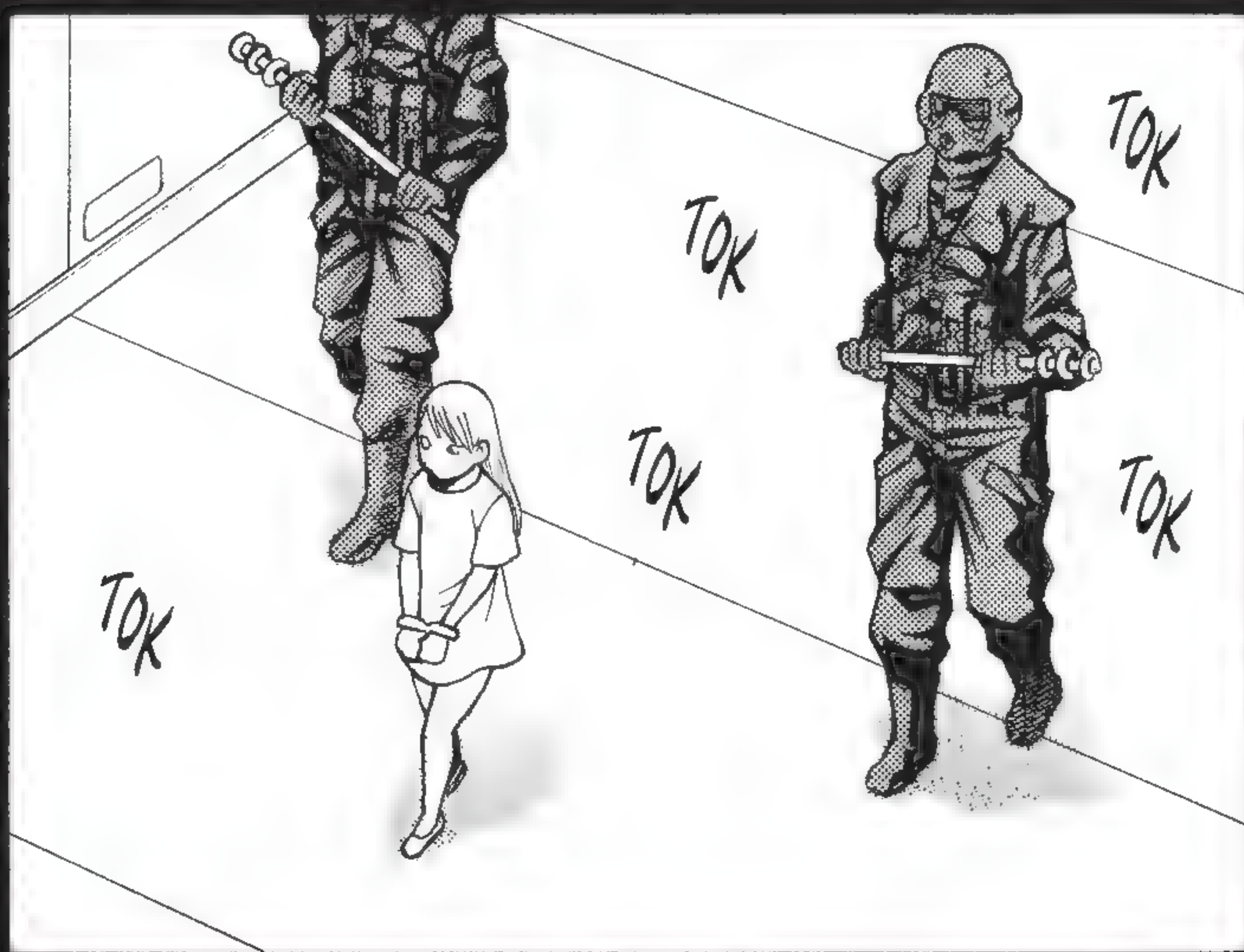
THOUGH, IT SEEMS THE PRINCESS IS FEELING SOMEWHAT... LESS THAN HER BEST.

AND SHE
DOES BOTH,
SO AS TO BE
READY FOR
ANY CHANCE
AT ESCAPE,
NO MATTER
HOW
SMALL OR
FLEETING...



SHE DOES
NOT SPEAK,
SO AS TO
CONSERVE
EVERY LAST
DROP OF HER
ENERGY.

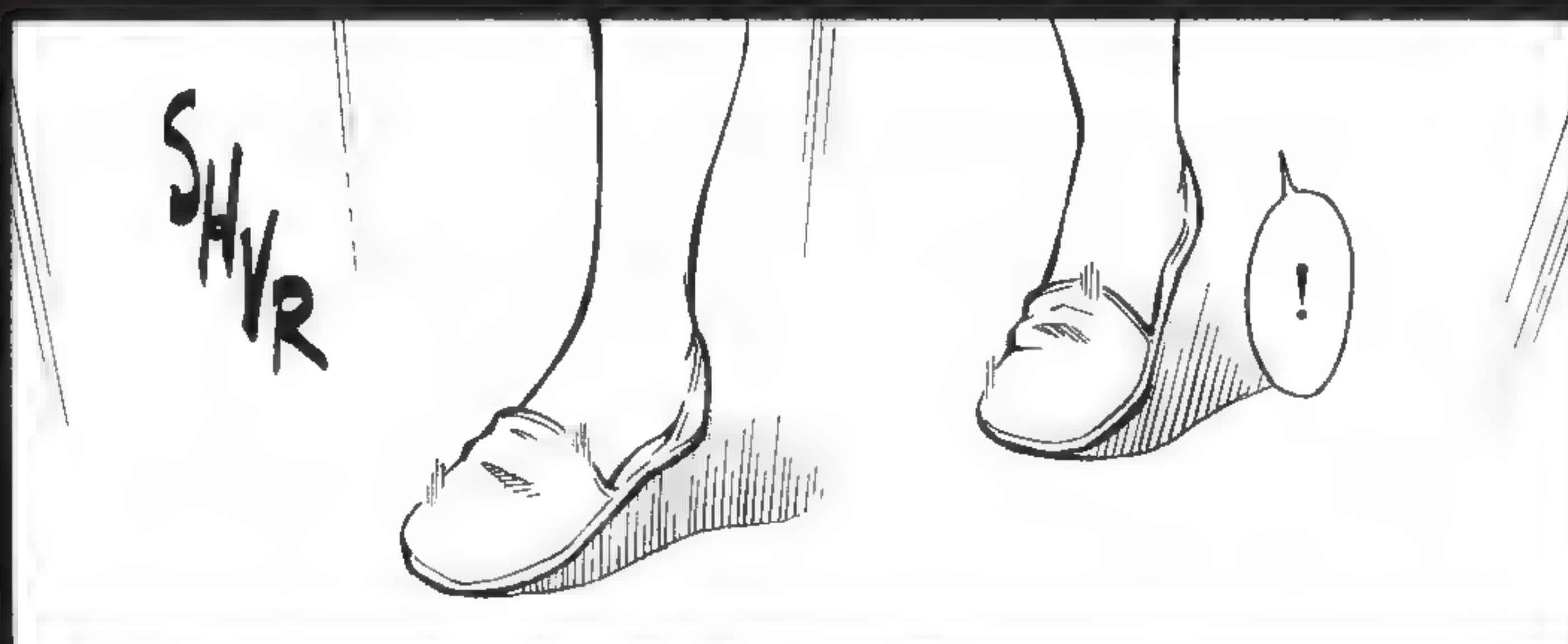
SHE DOES
NOT SLEEP,
SO AS TO
PROVIDE US
WITH NO
MOMENT OF
WEAKNESS
TO EXPLOIT.

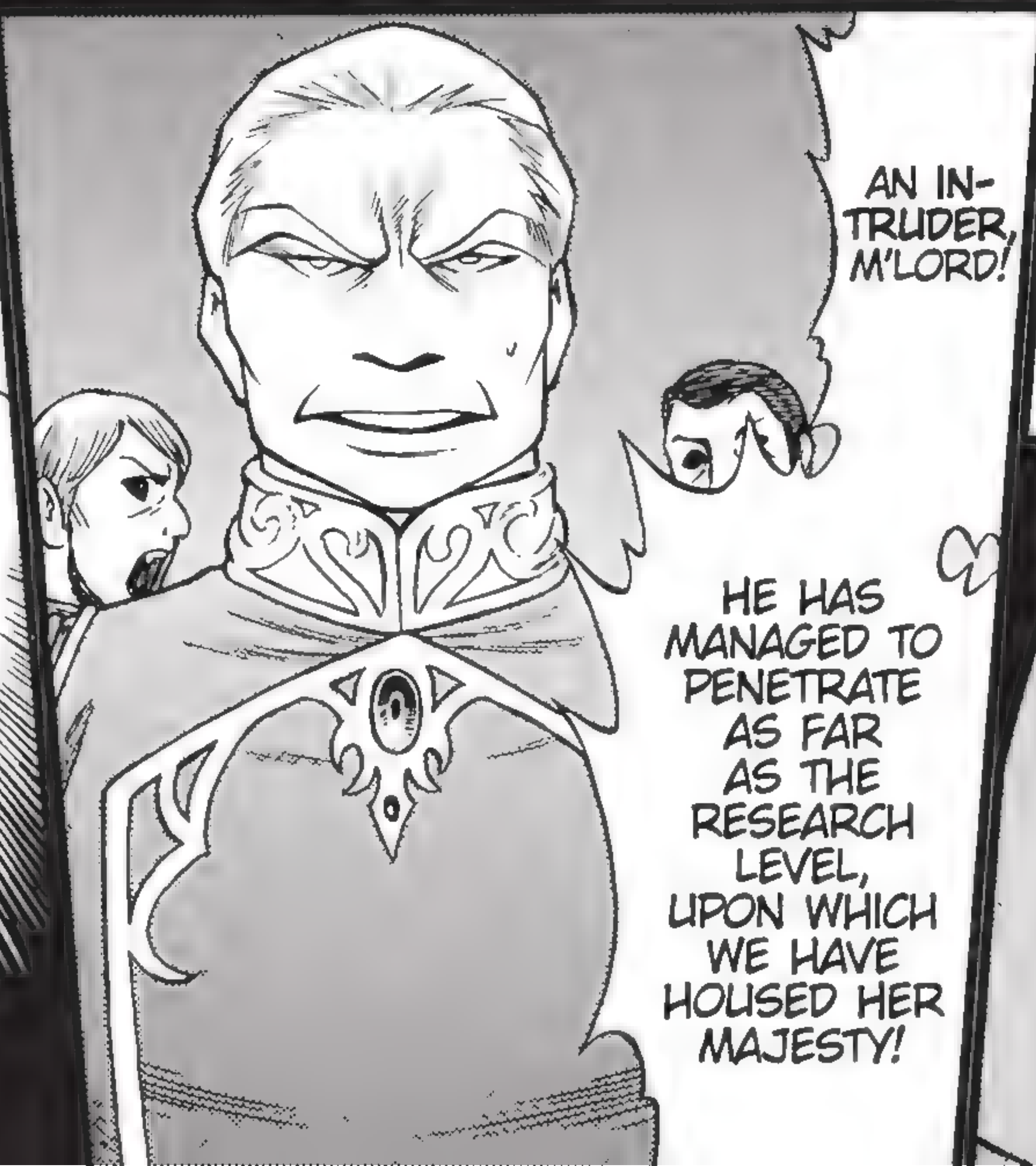
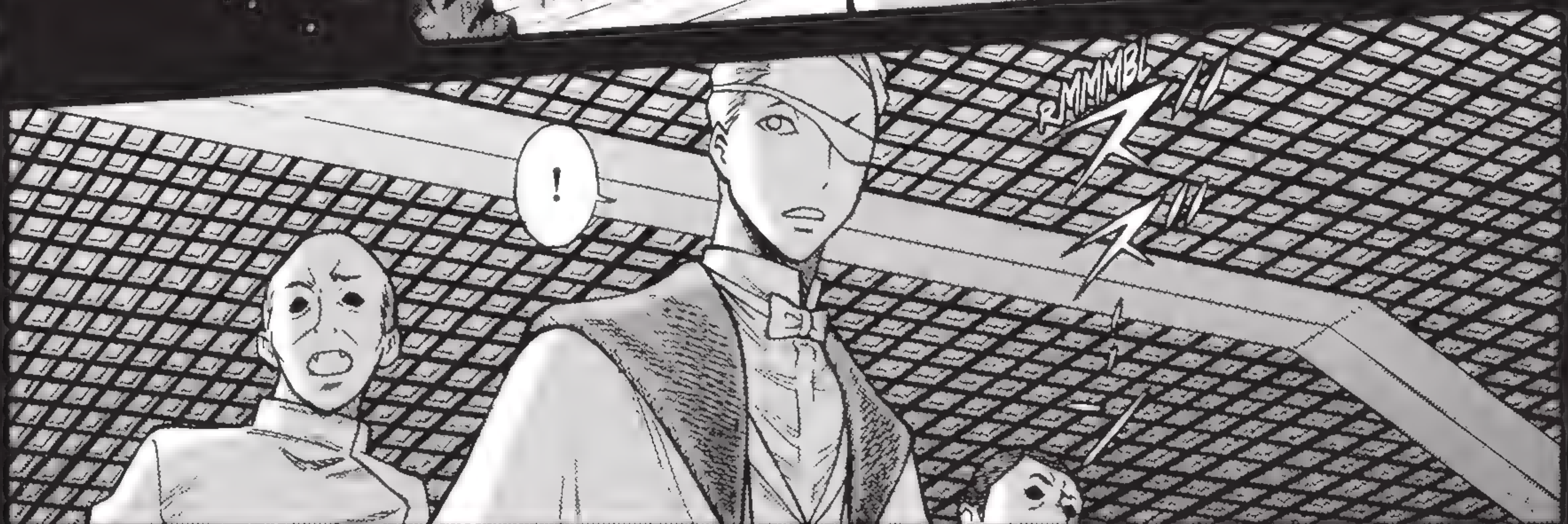
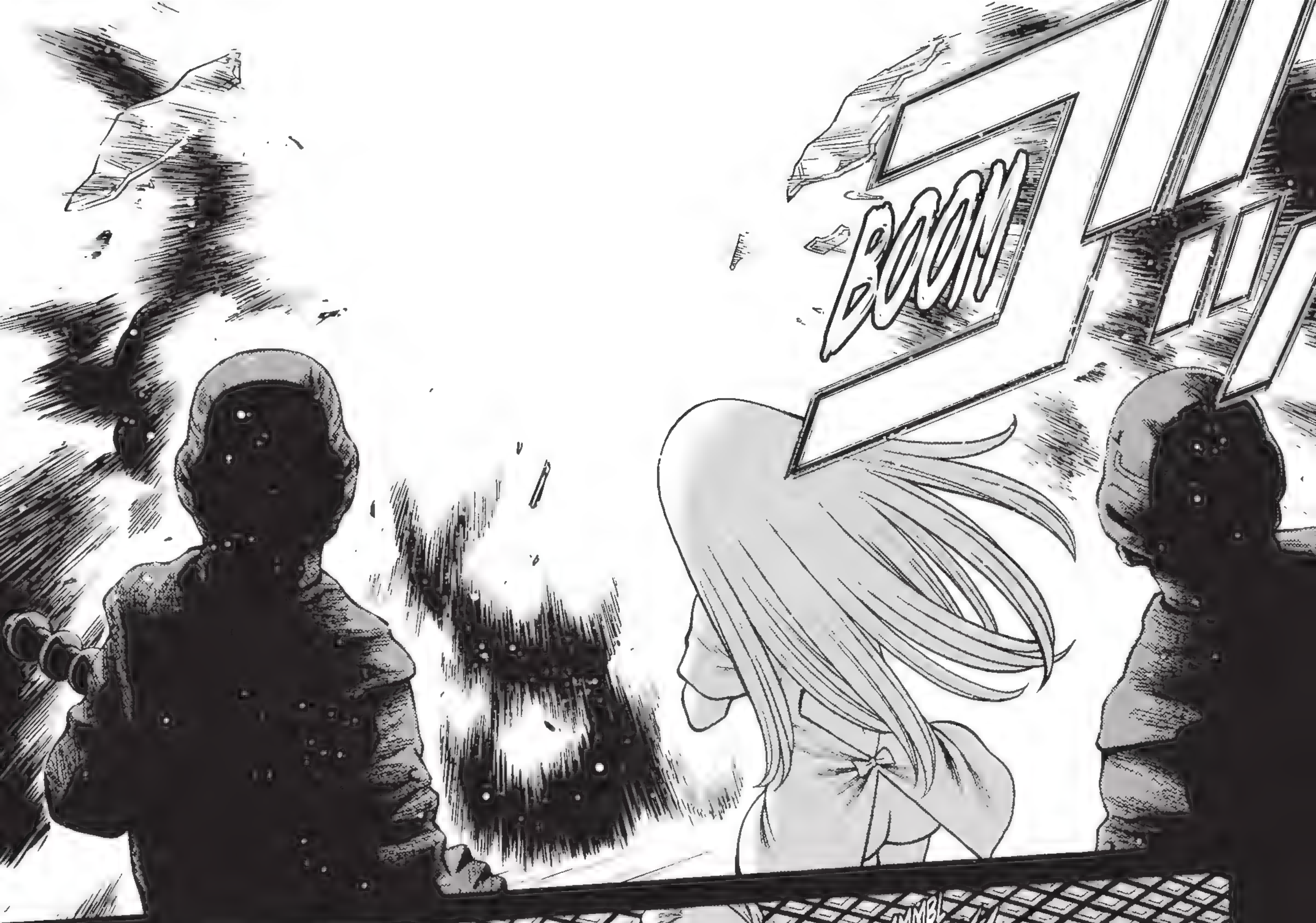


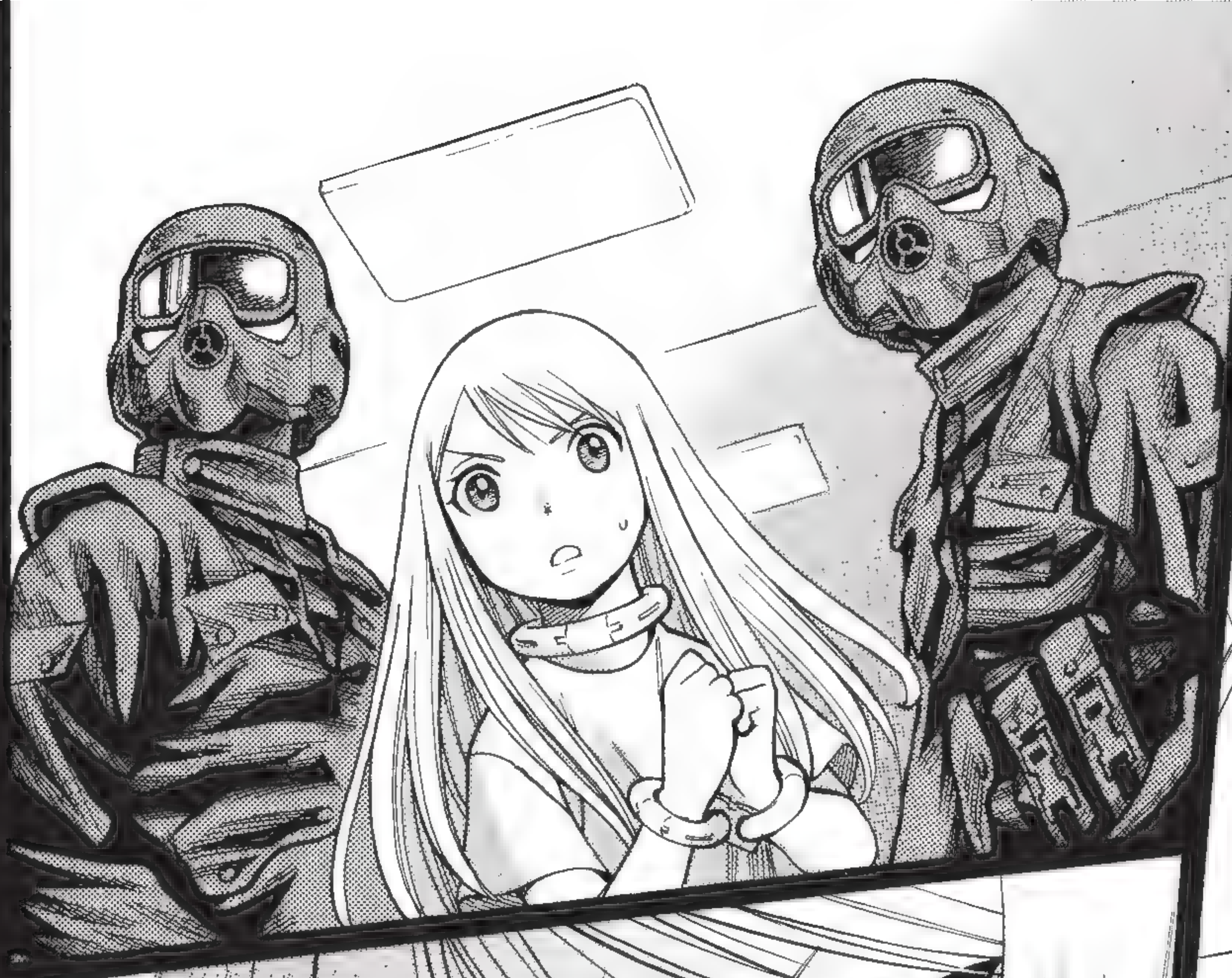
TRULY,
MY
LOVELY
BRIDE IS
A MOST
FORMI-
DABLE
LADY.

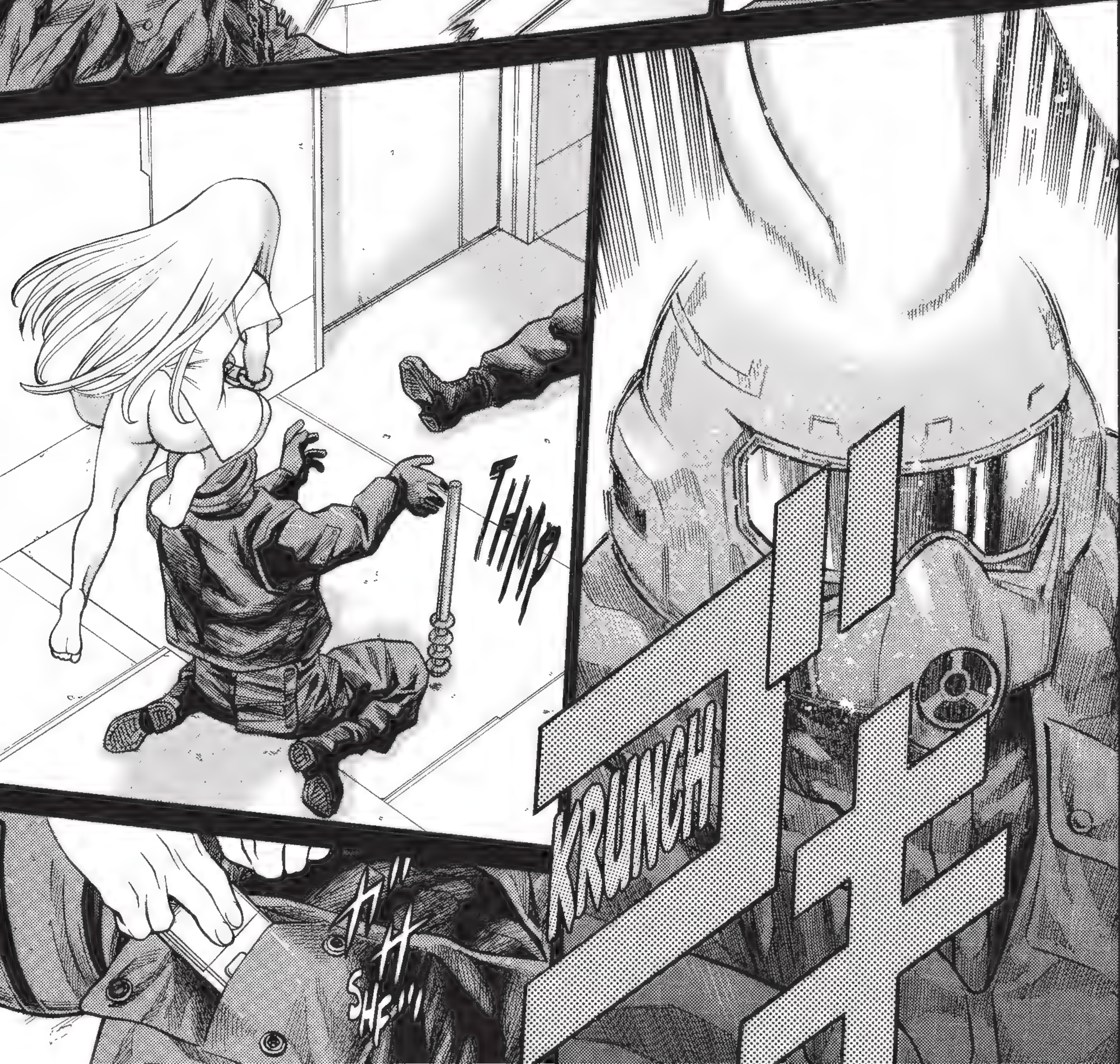
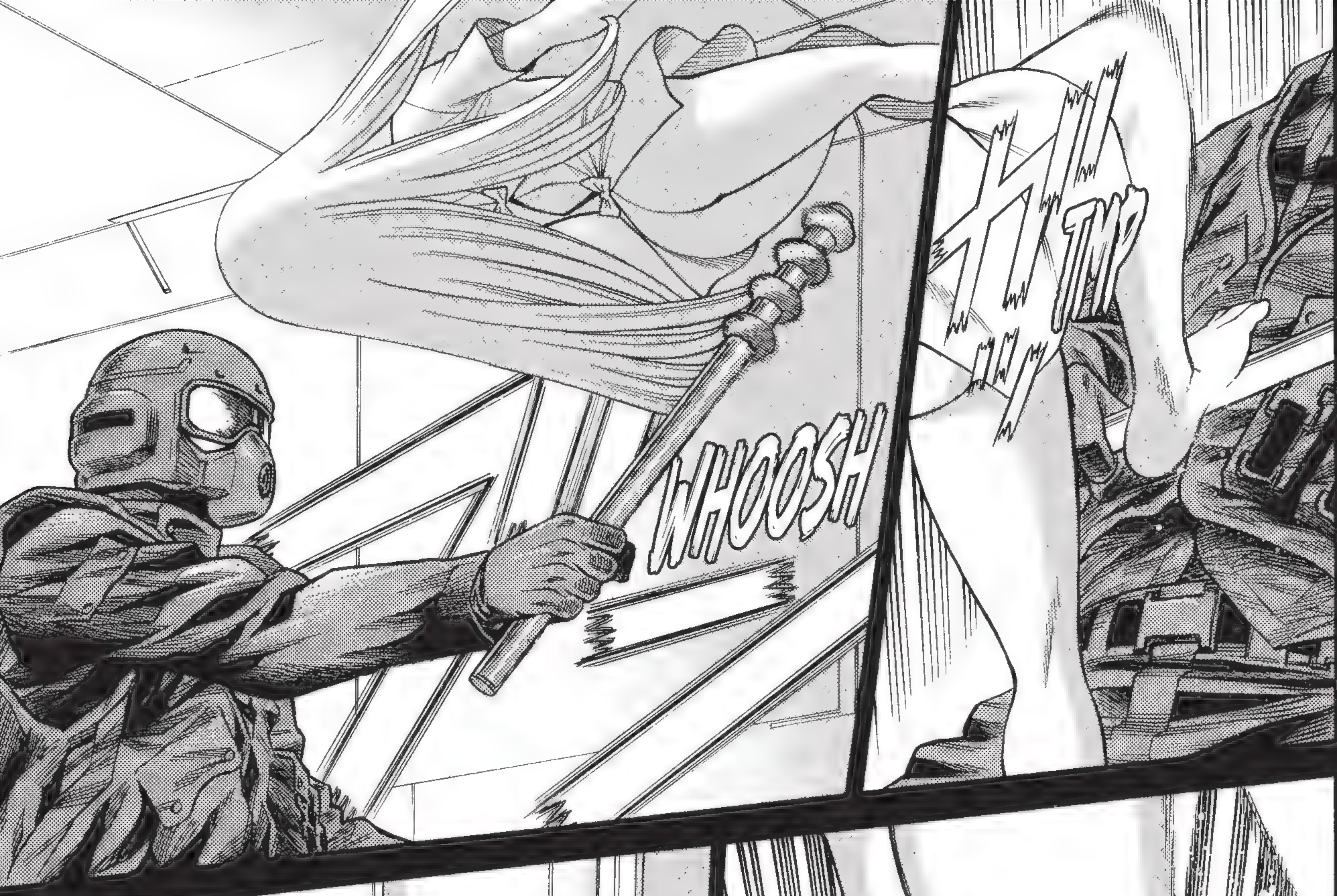


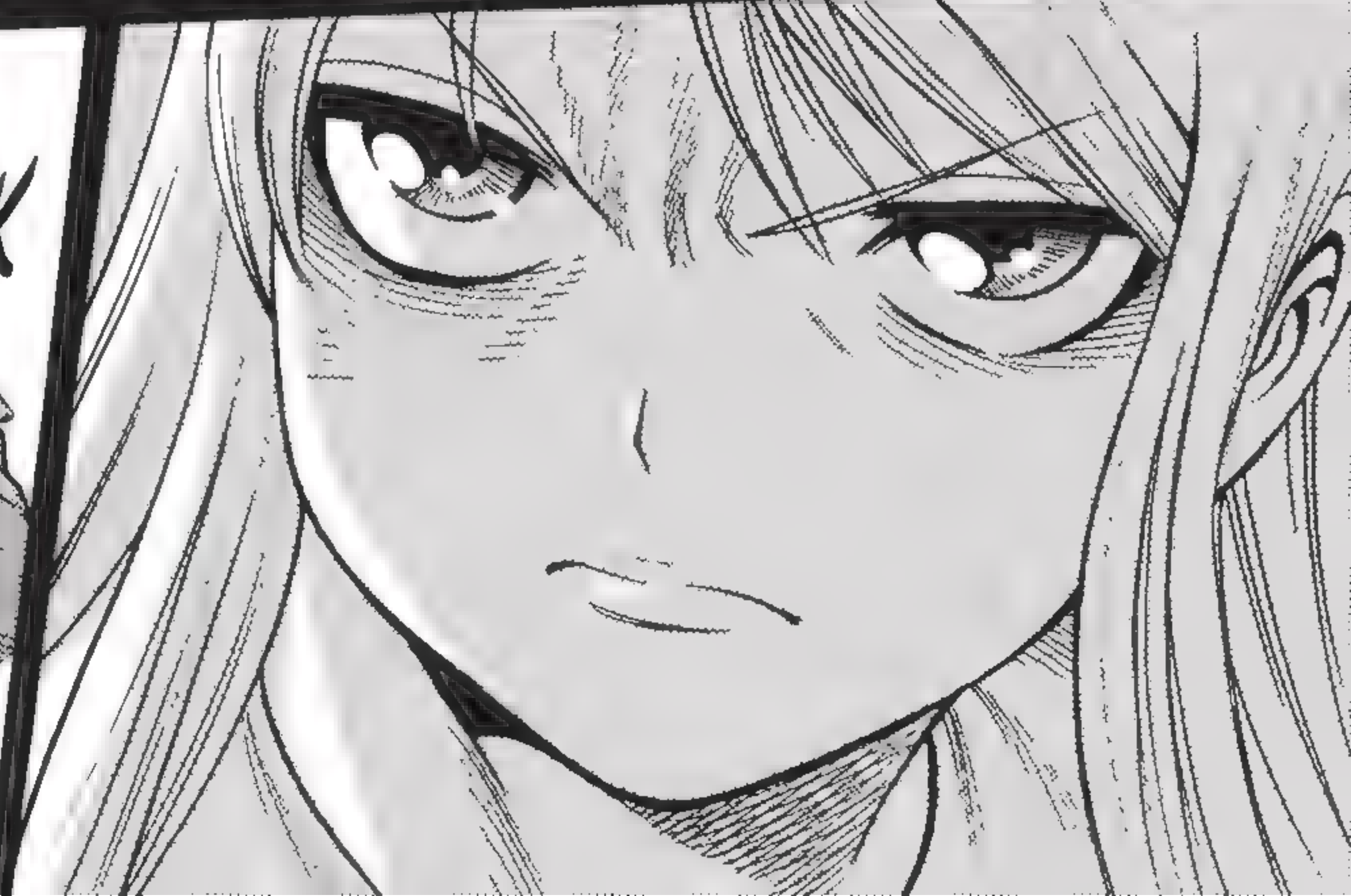
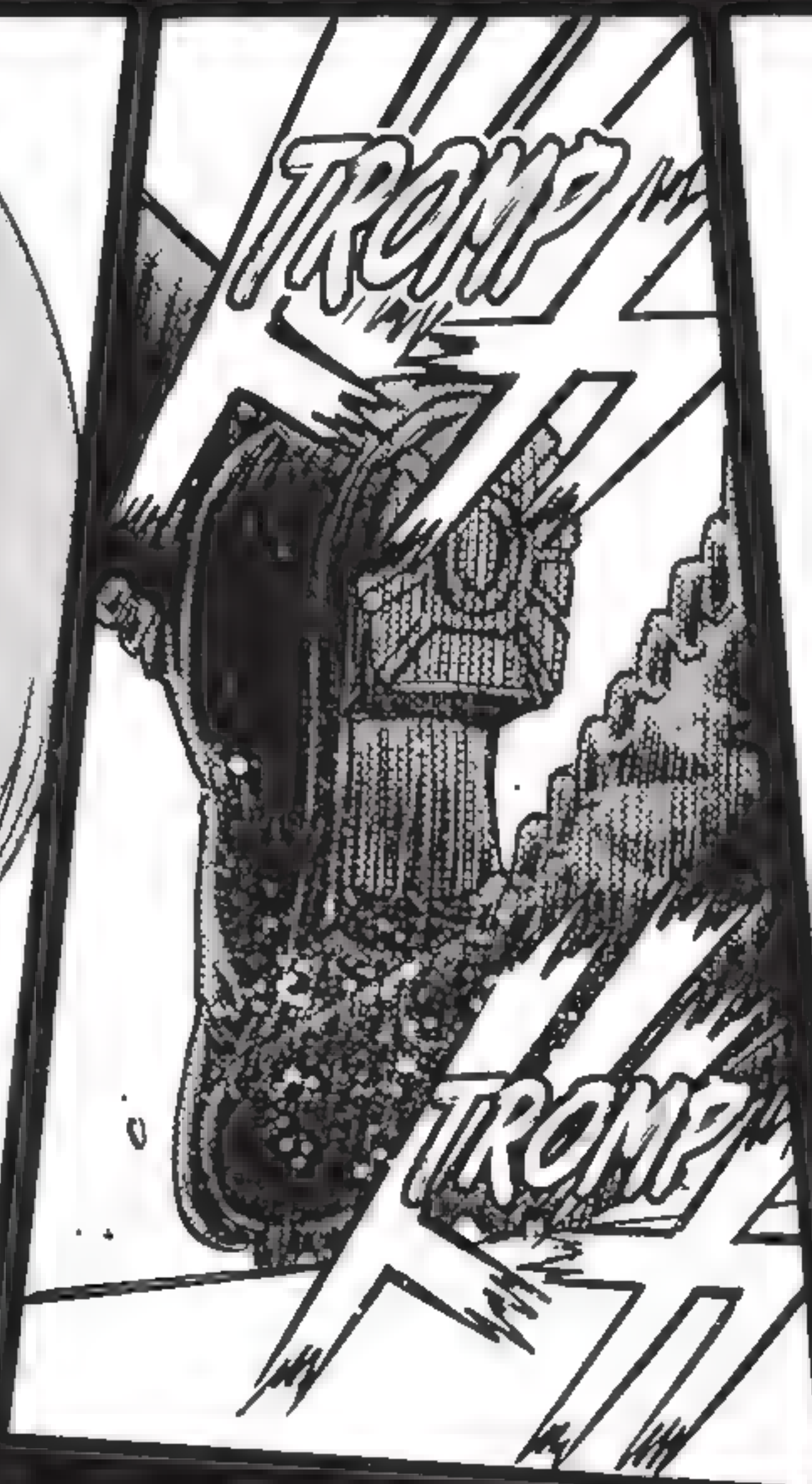
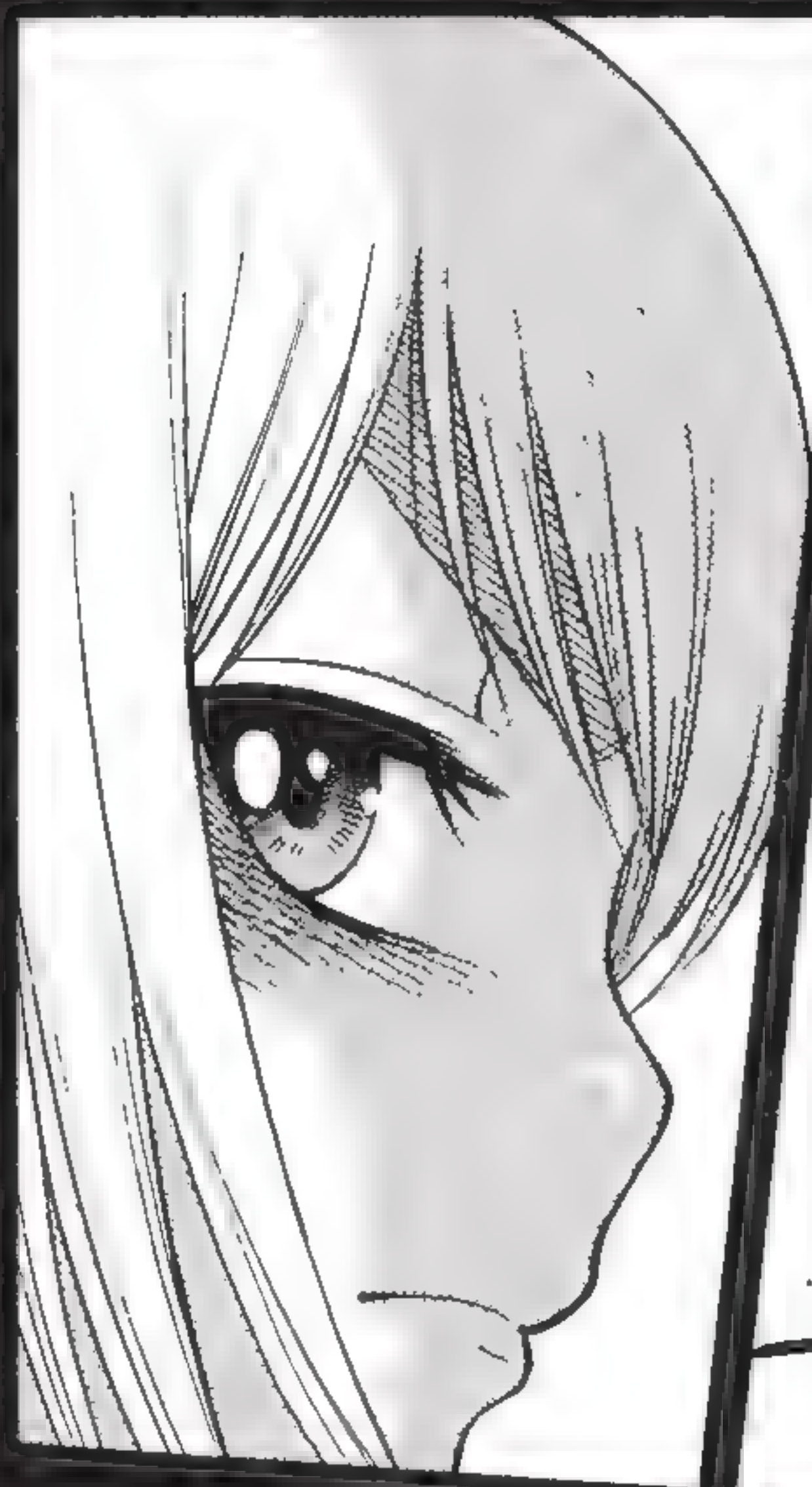
EVEN
BOUND
IN CHAINS
AND CAST
INTO THE
HEART
OF AN
INESCAPABLE
DUNGEON,
SHE STILL
HAS NOT
LOST HER
FANGS.

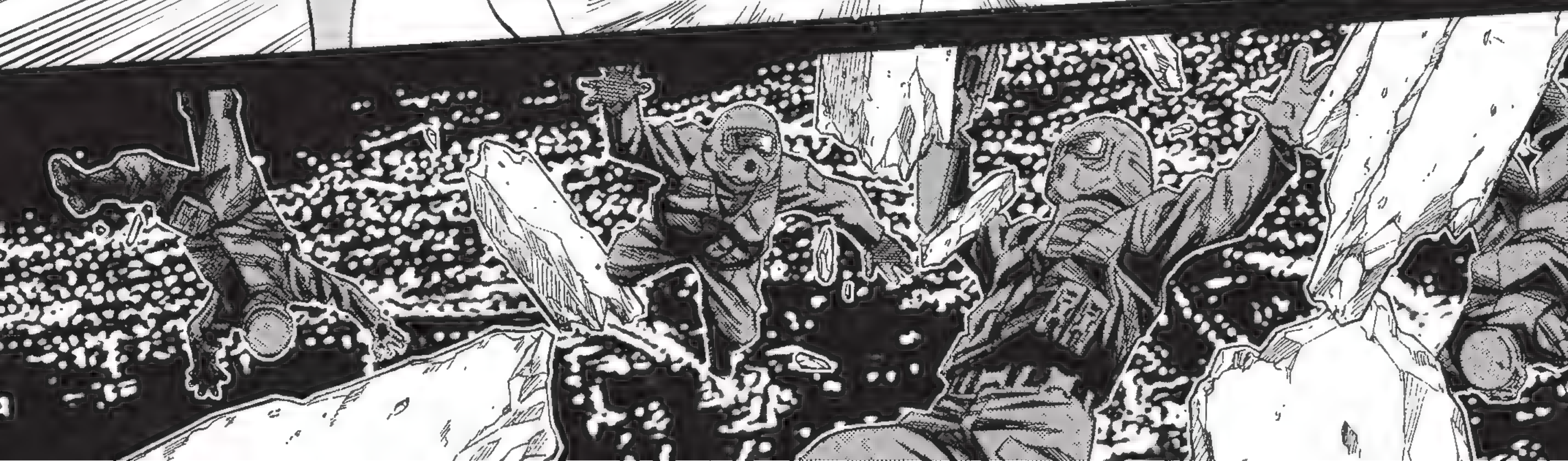
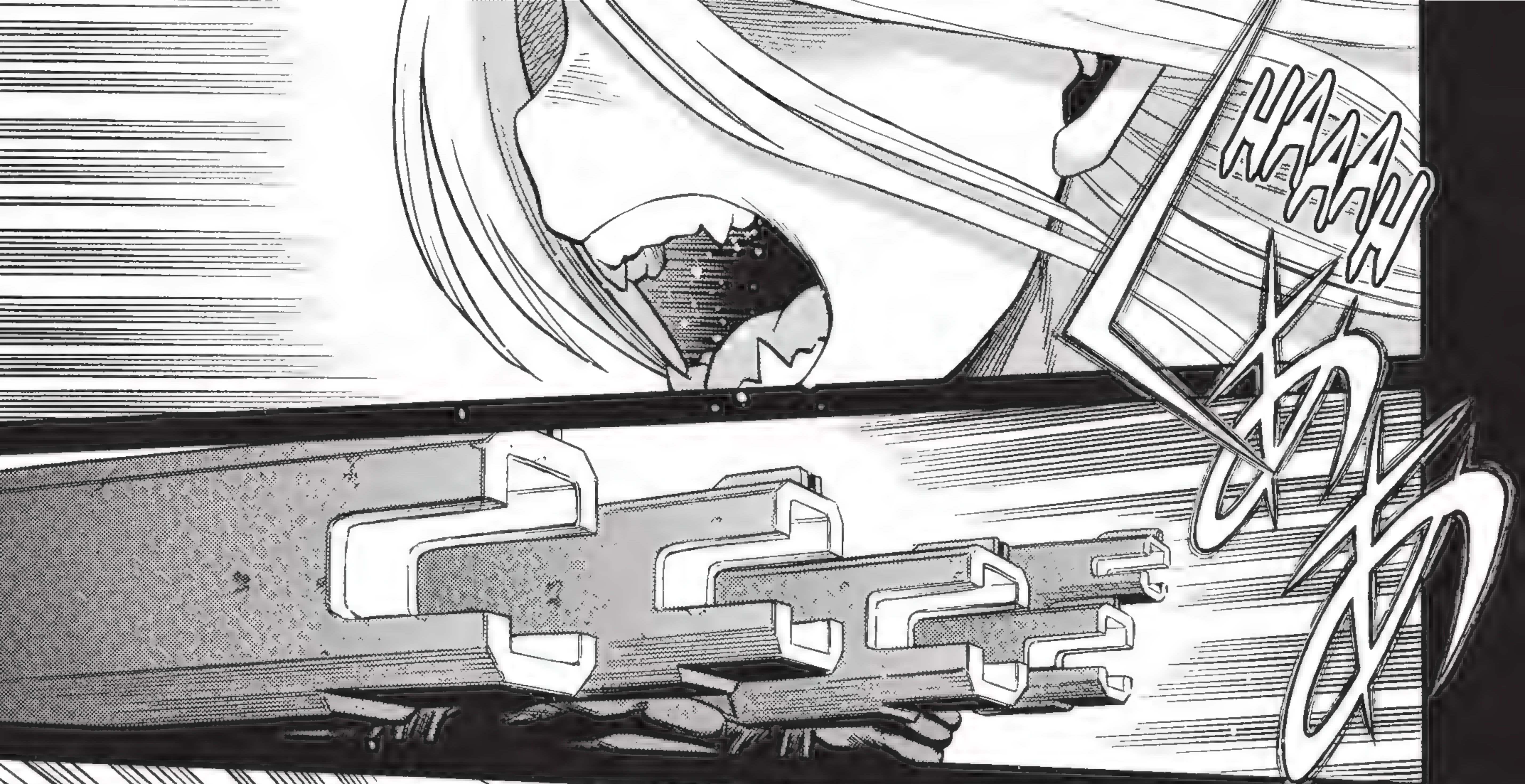


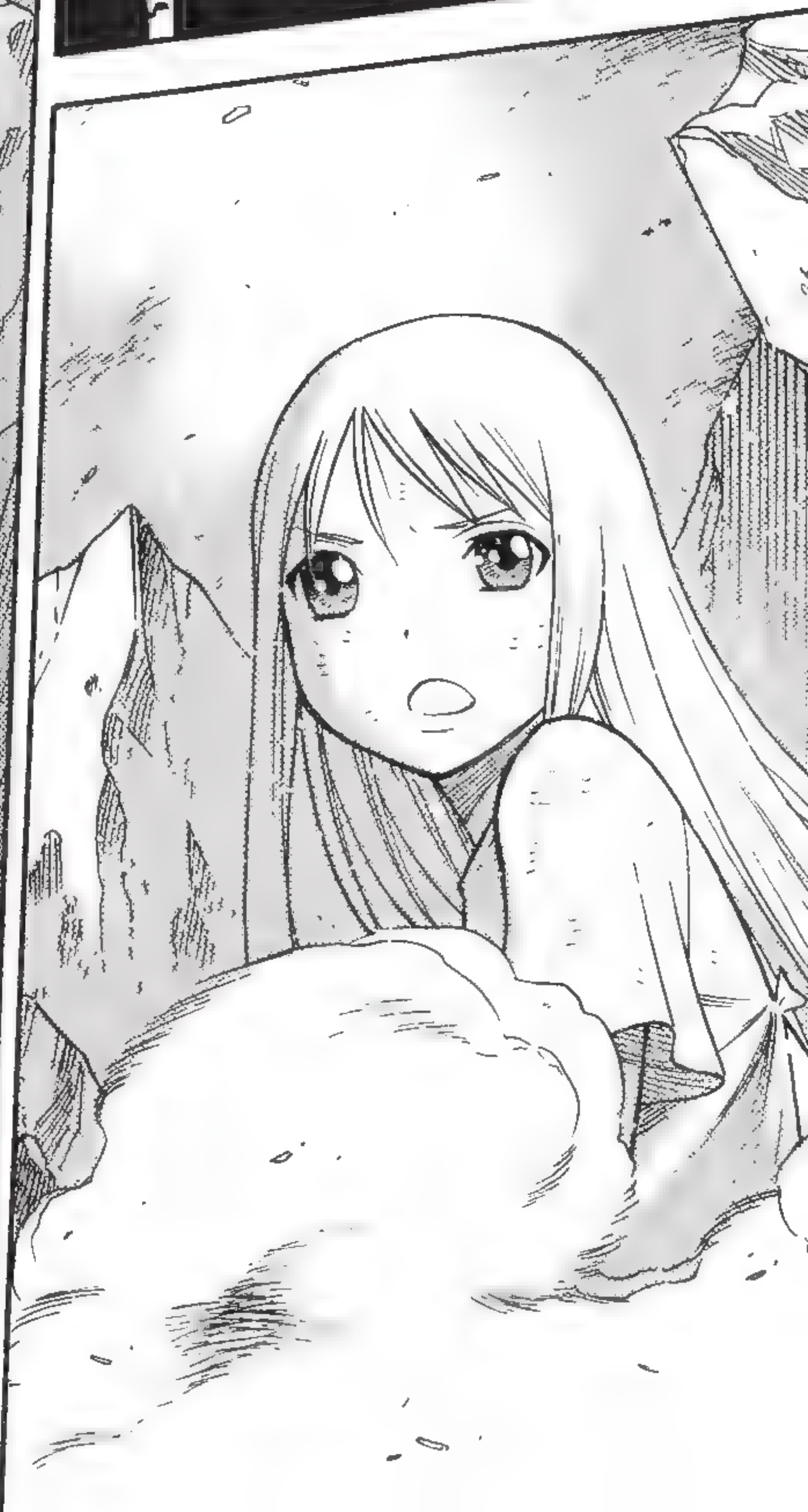
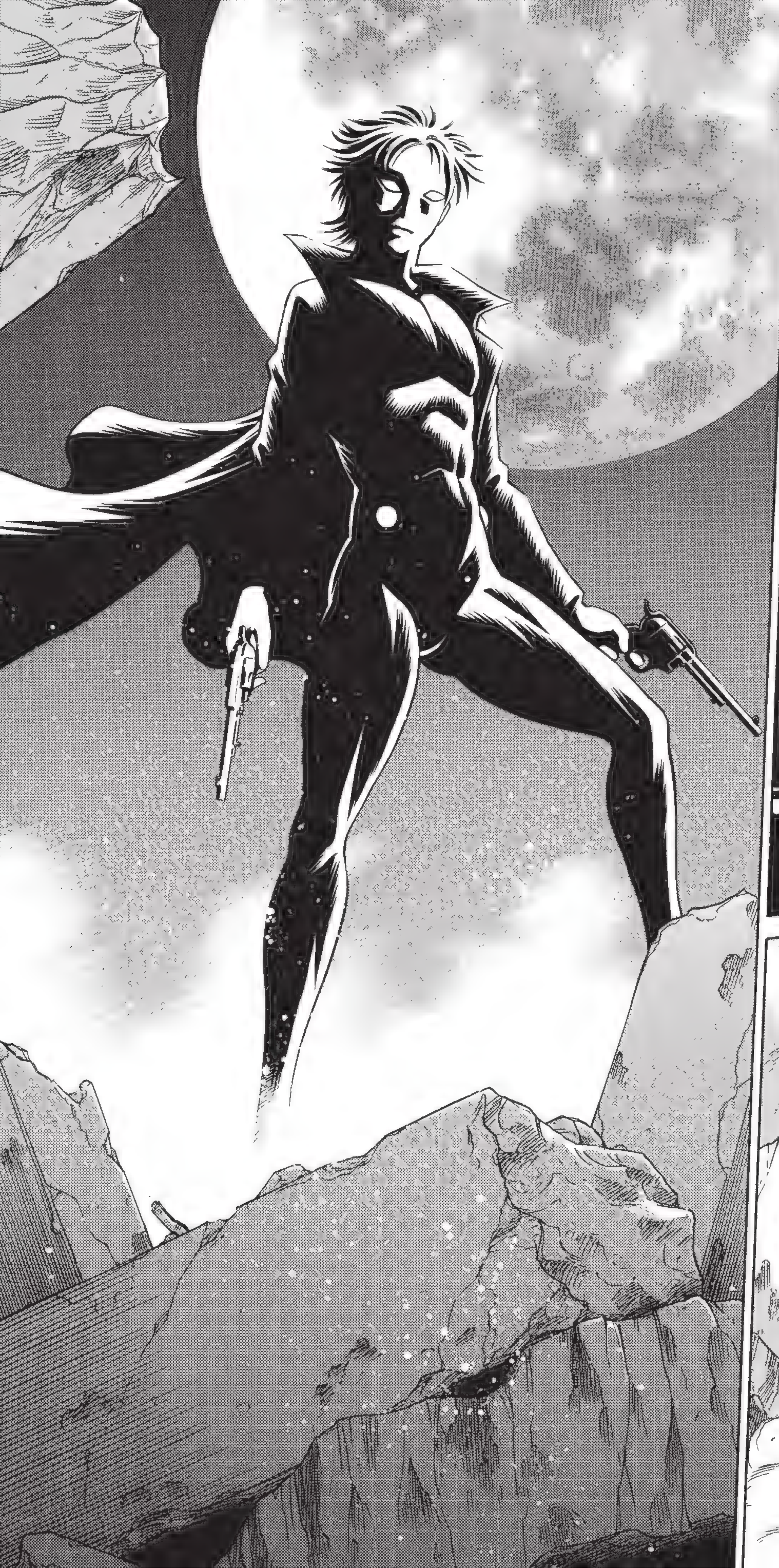






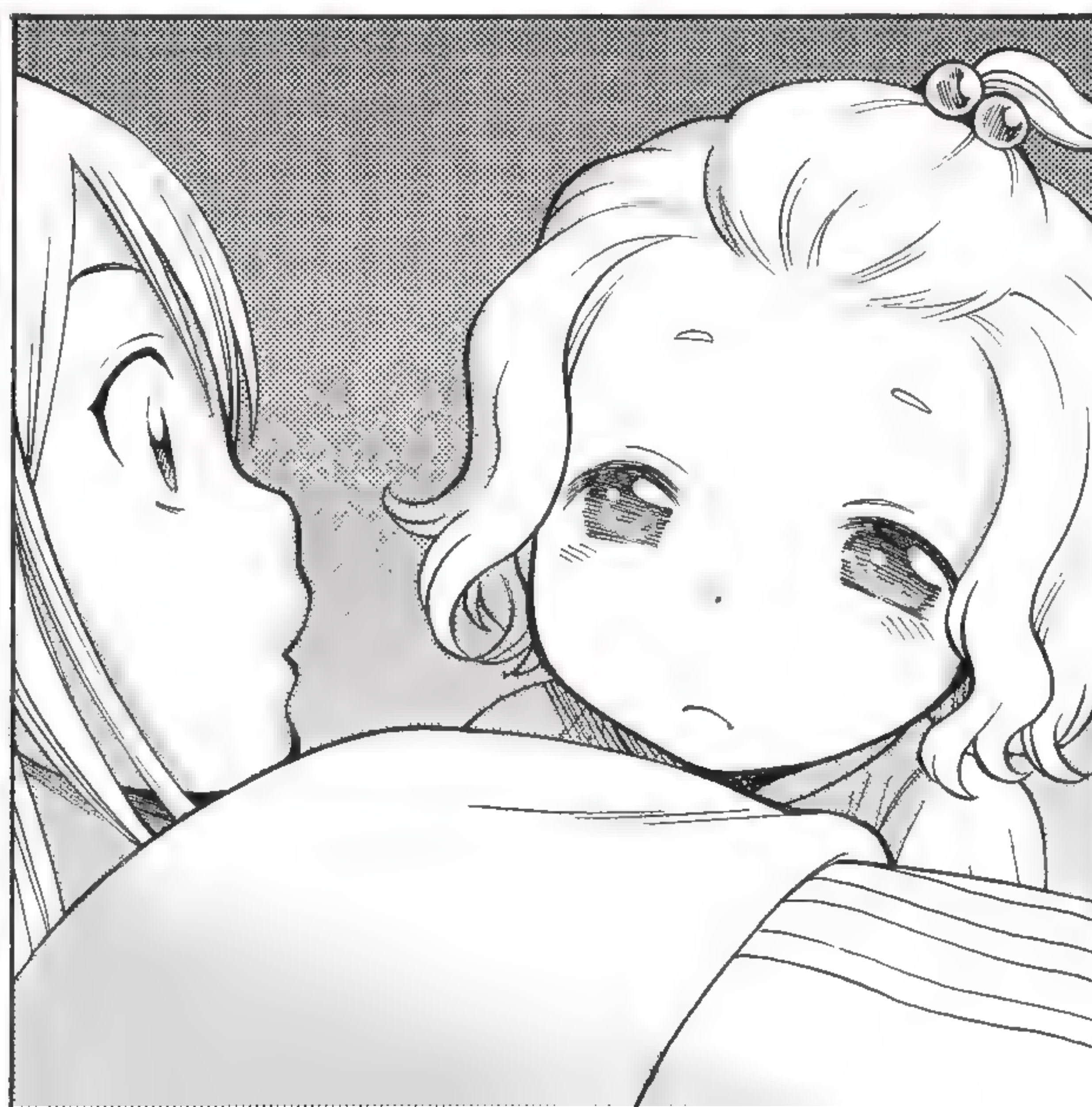
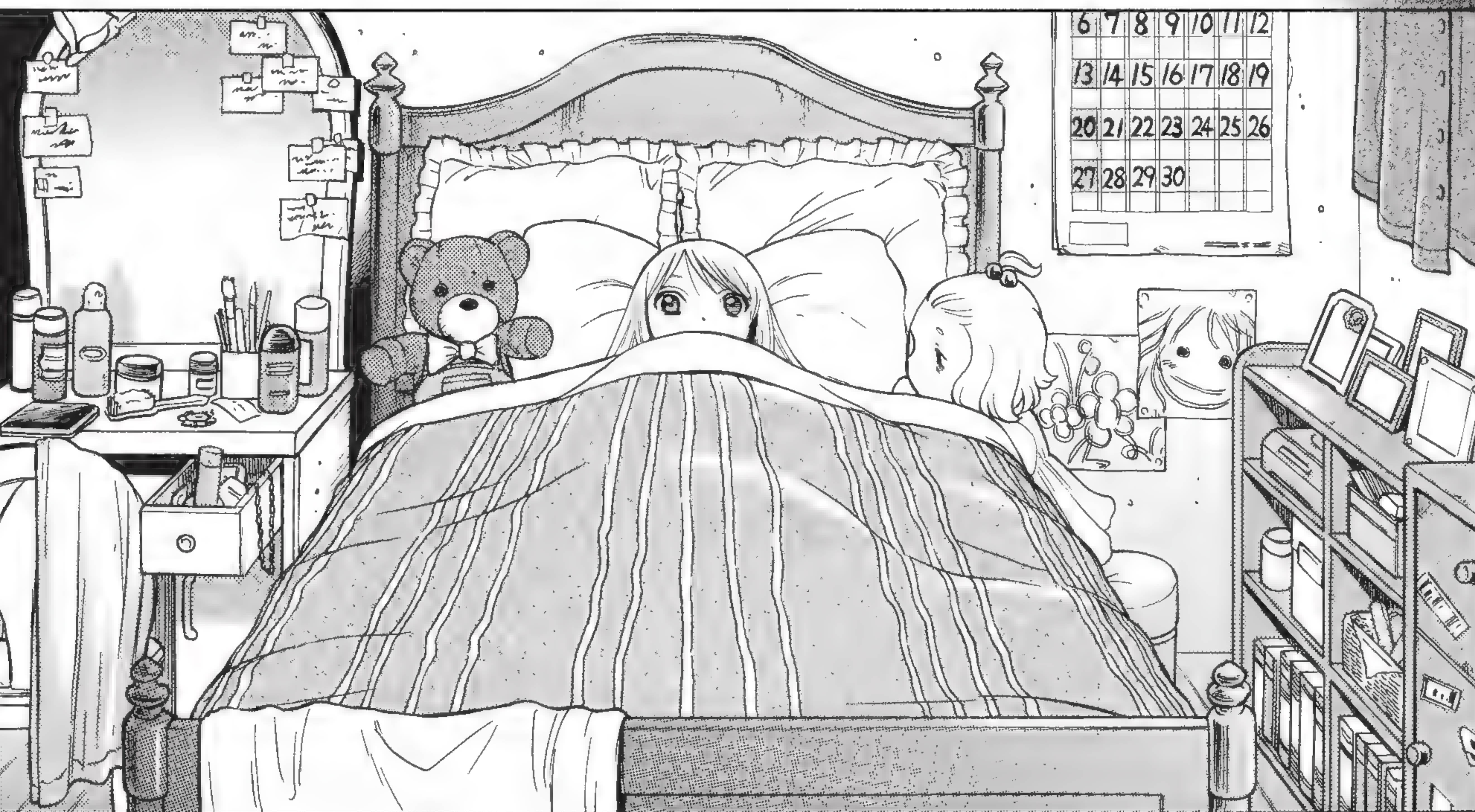
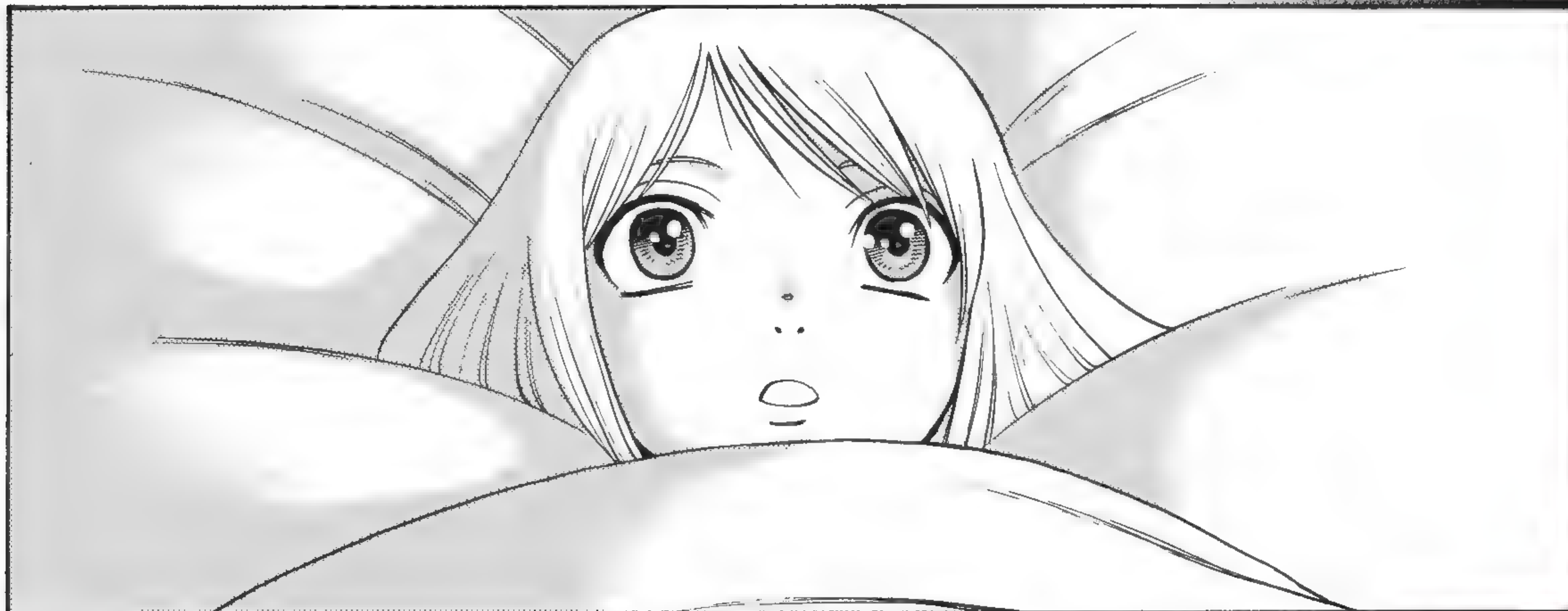


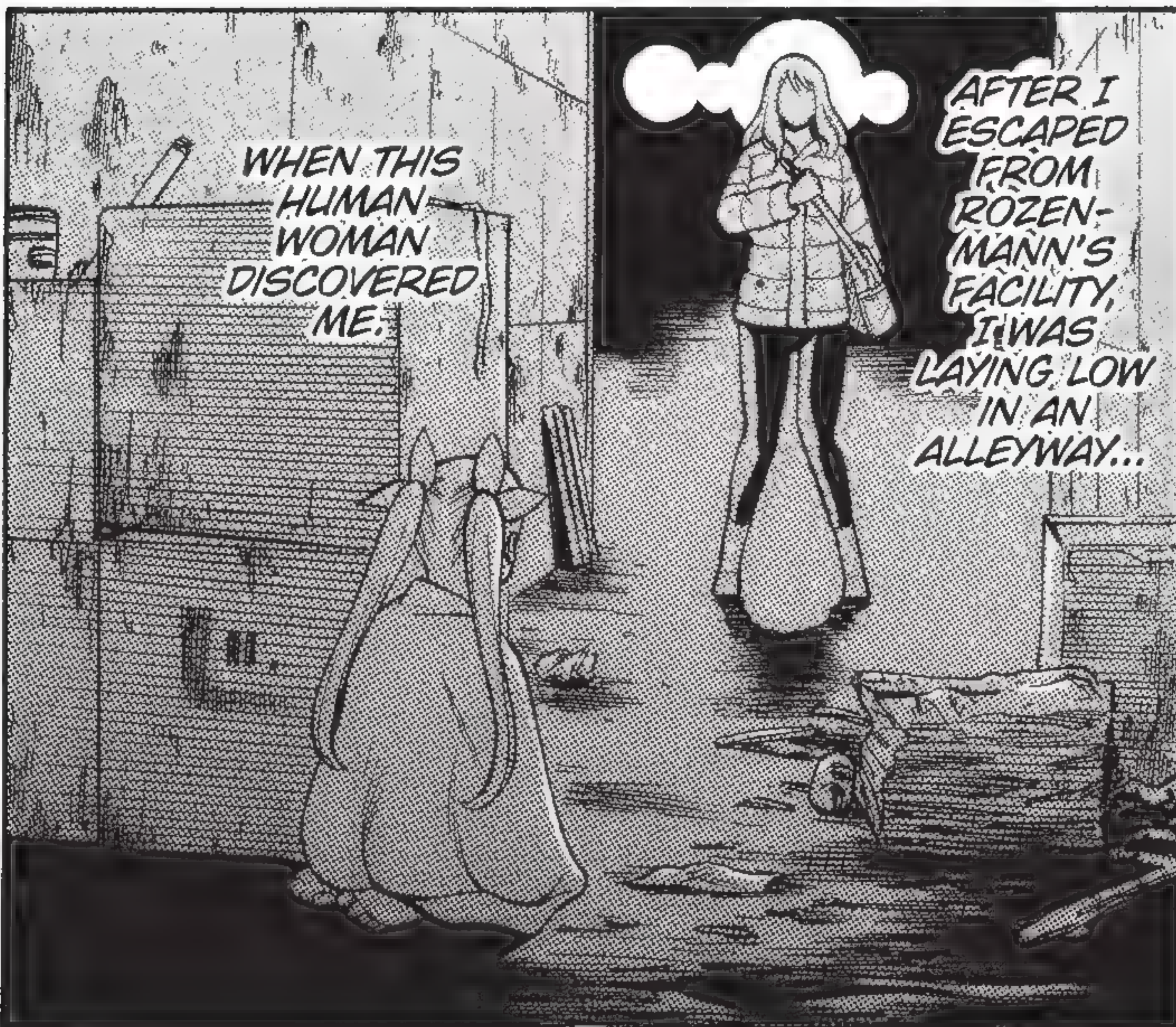
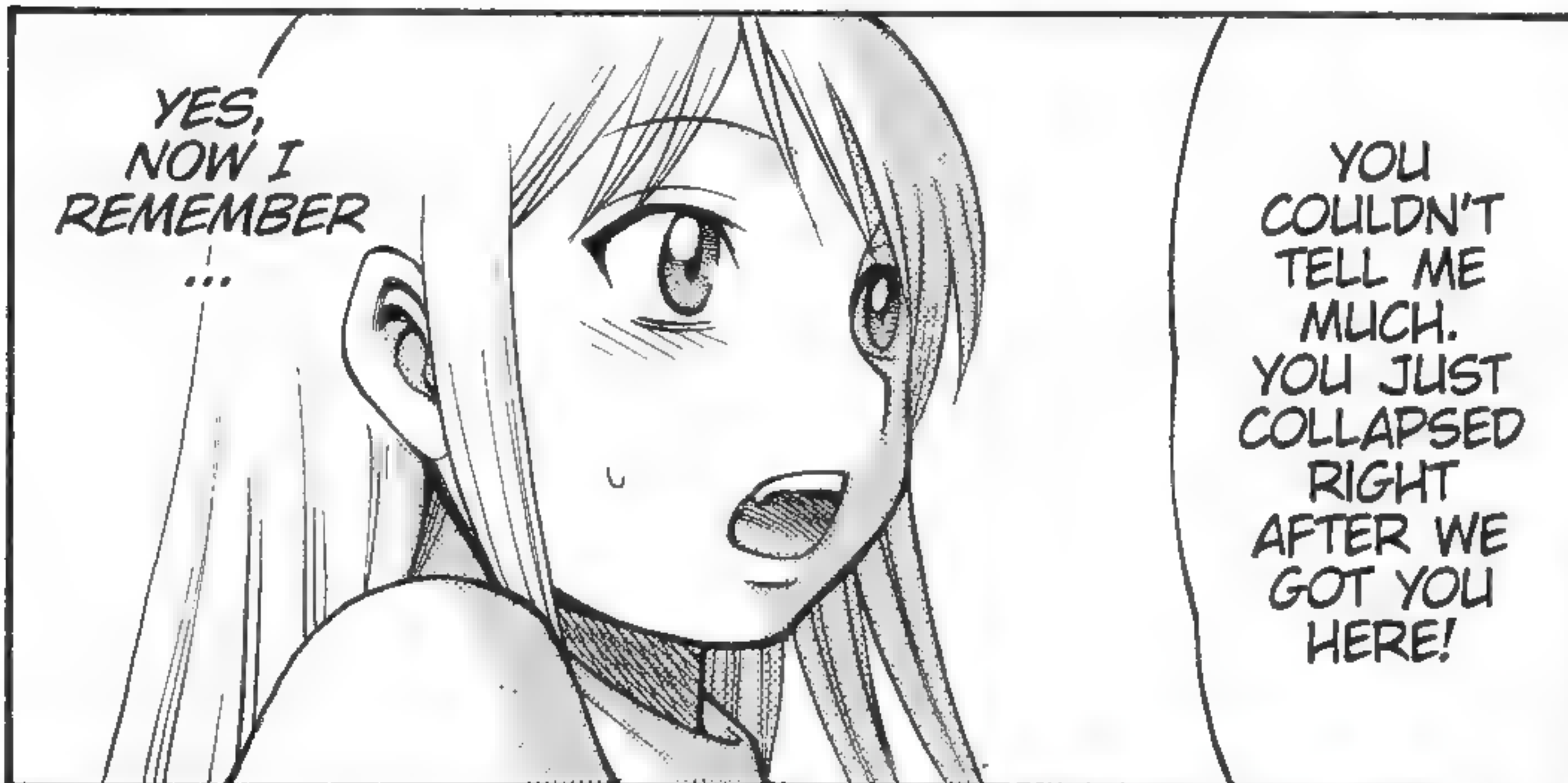


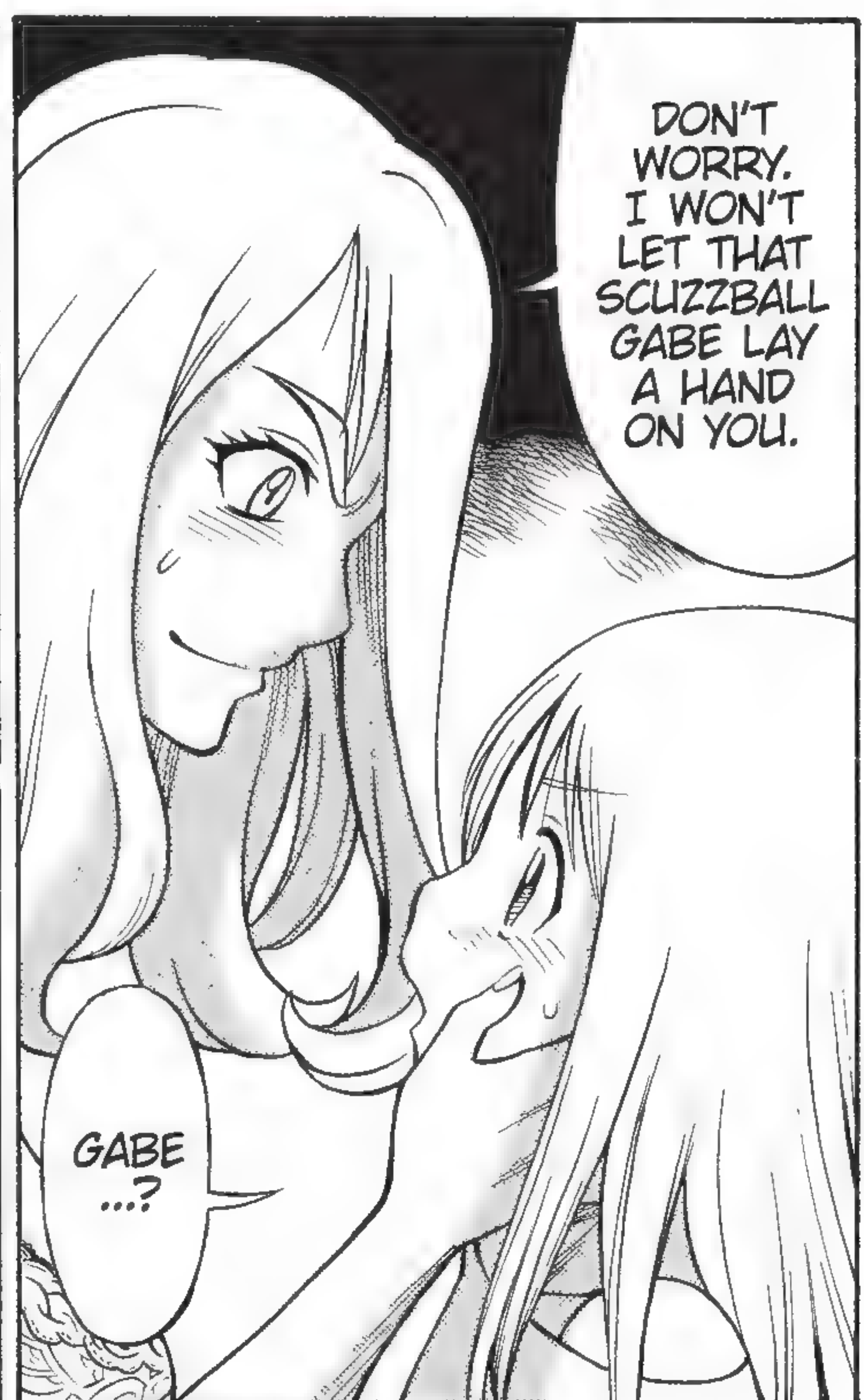
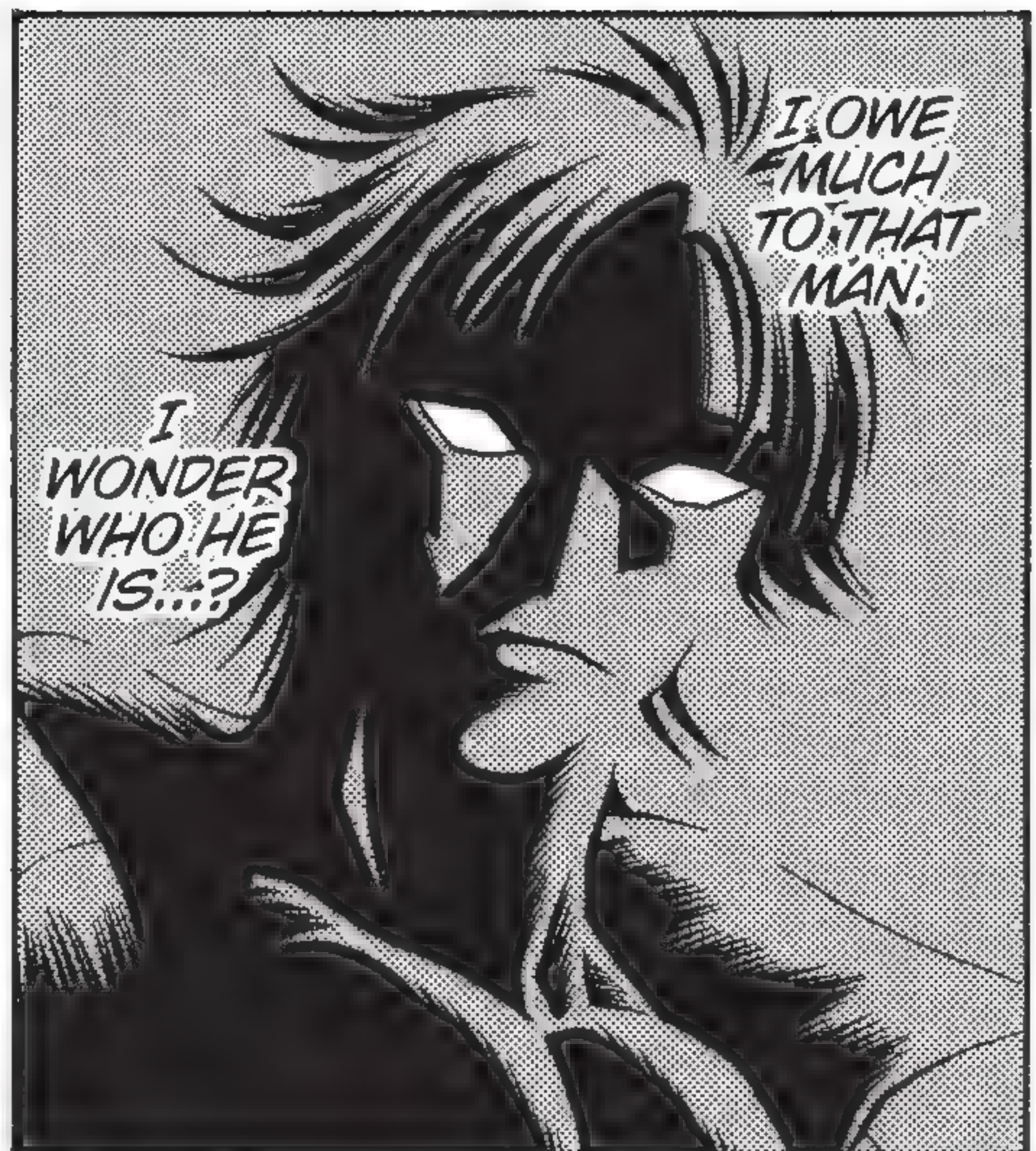
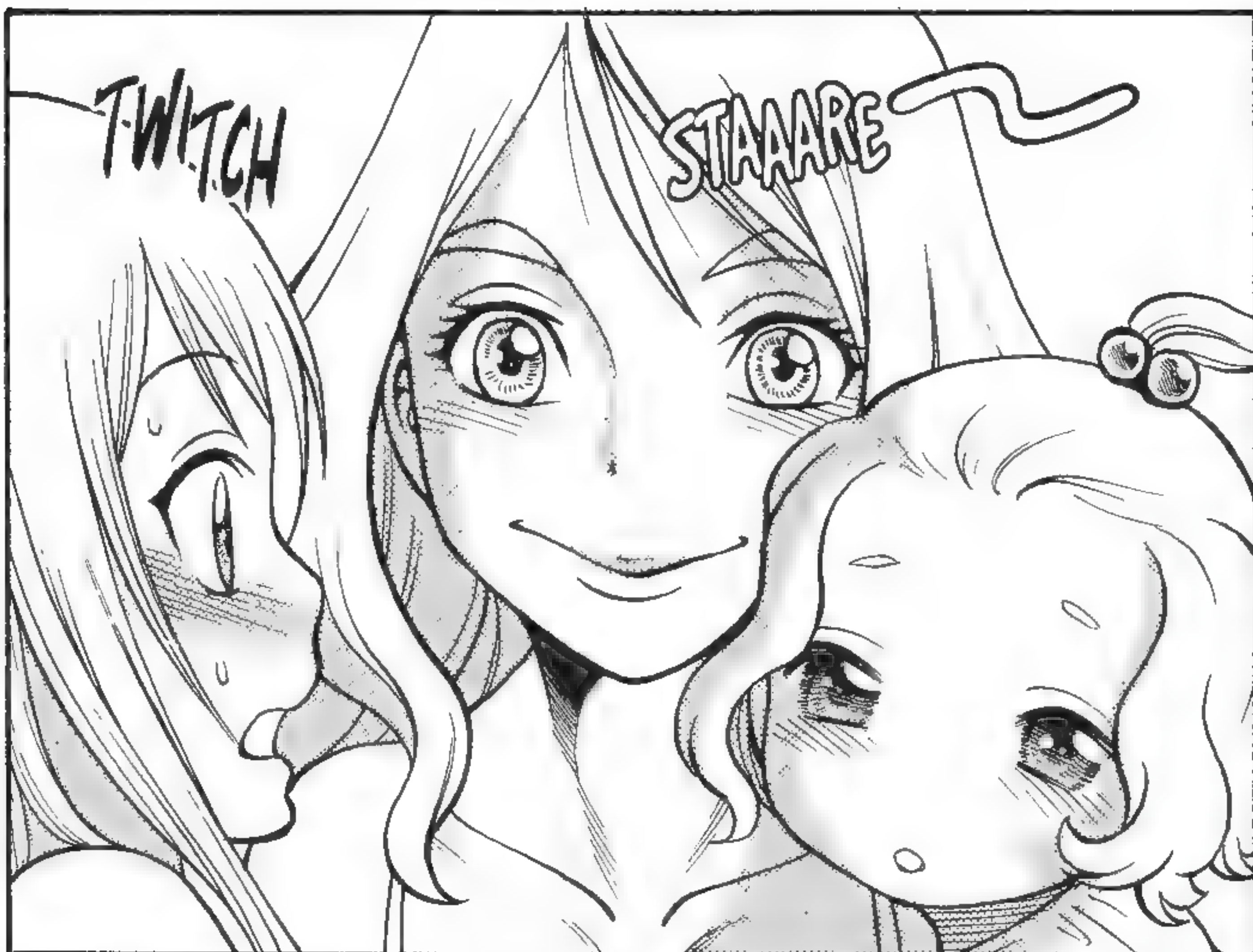


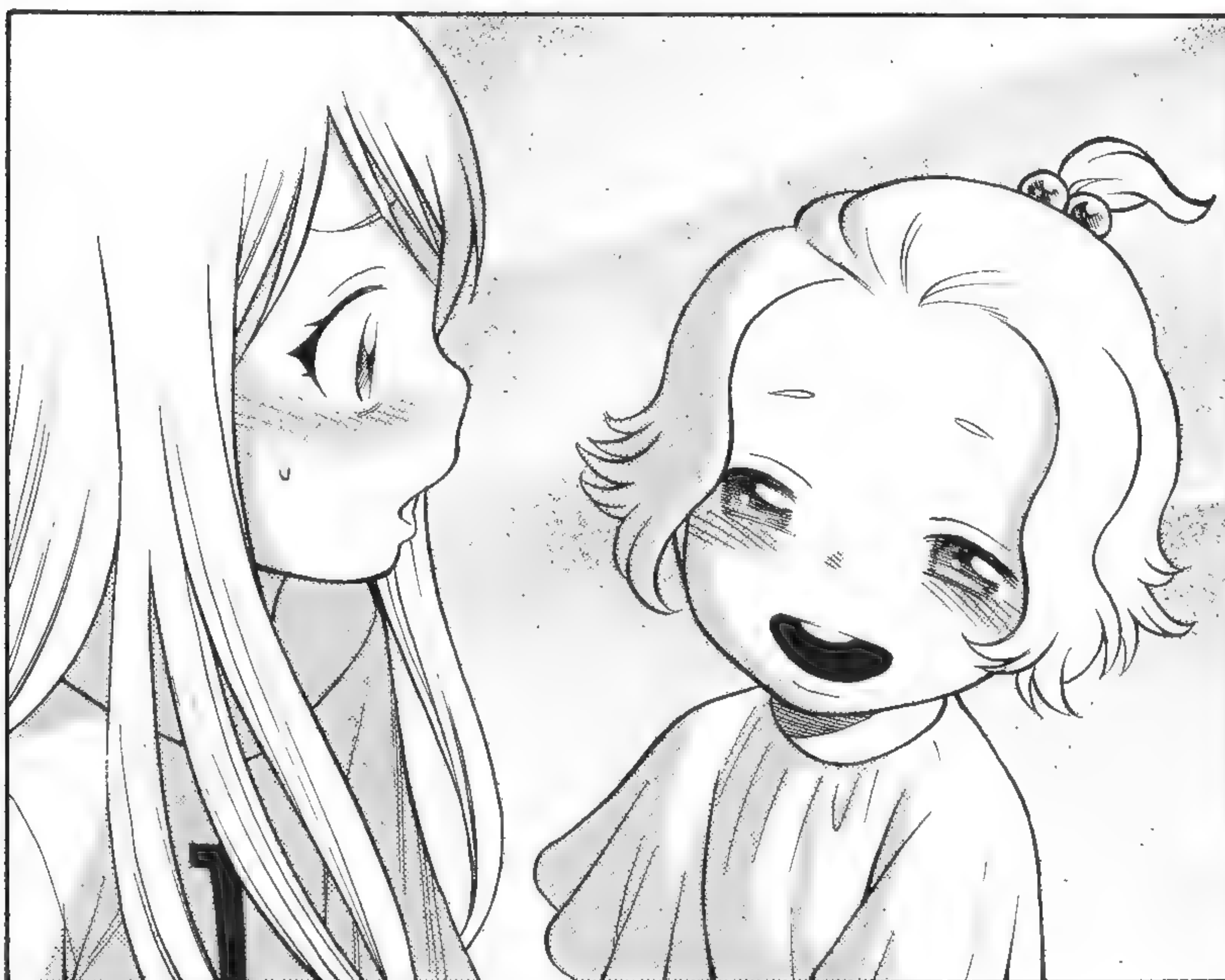
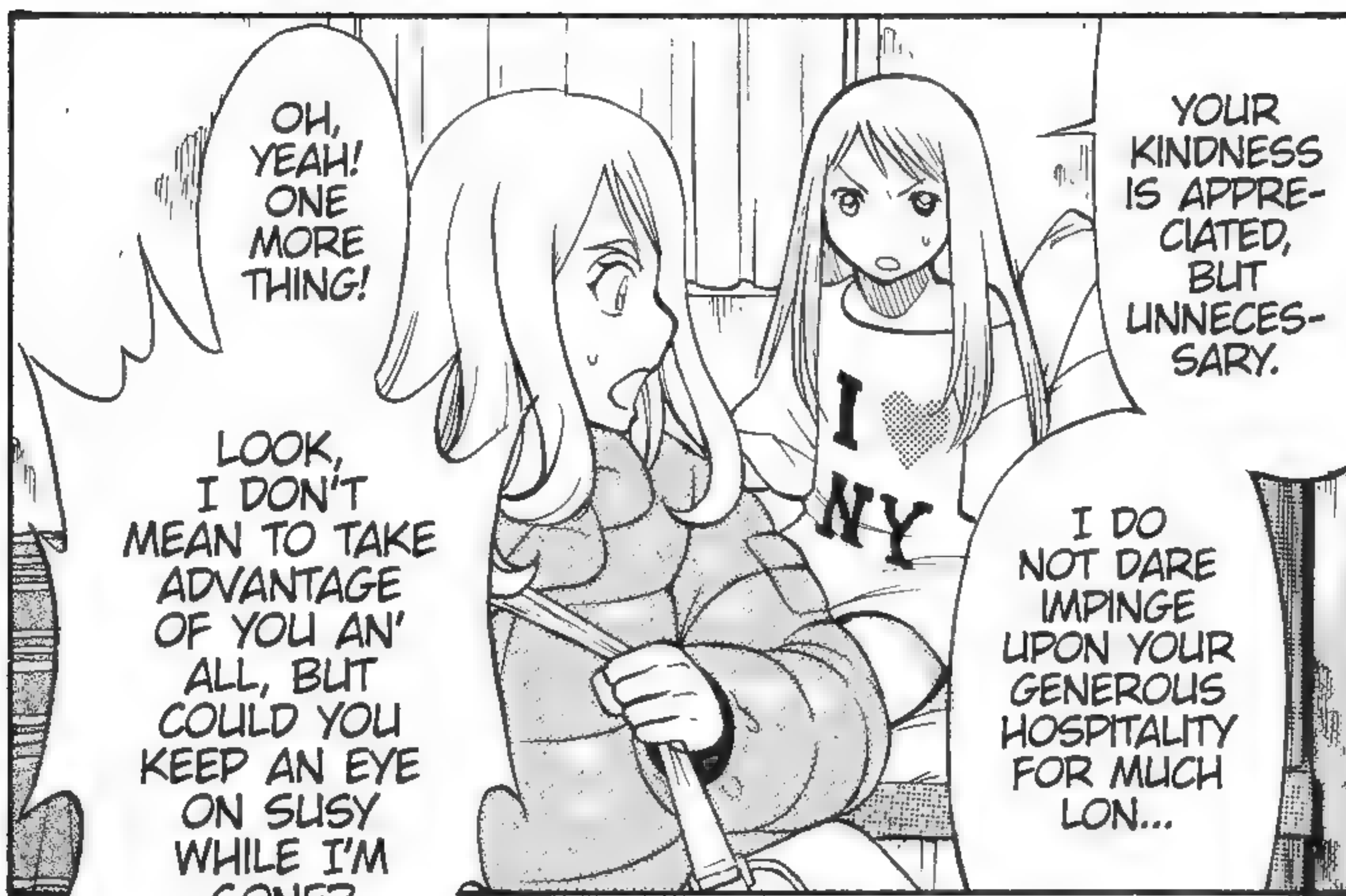


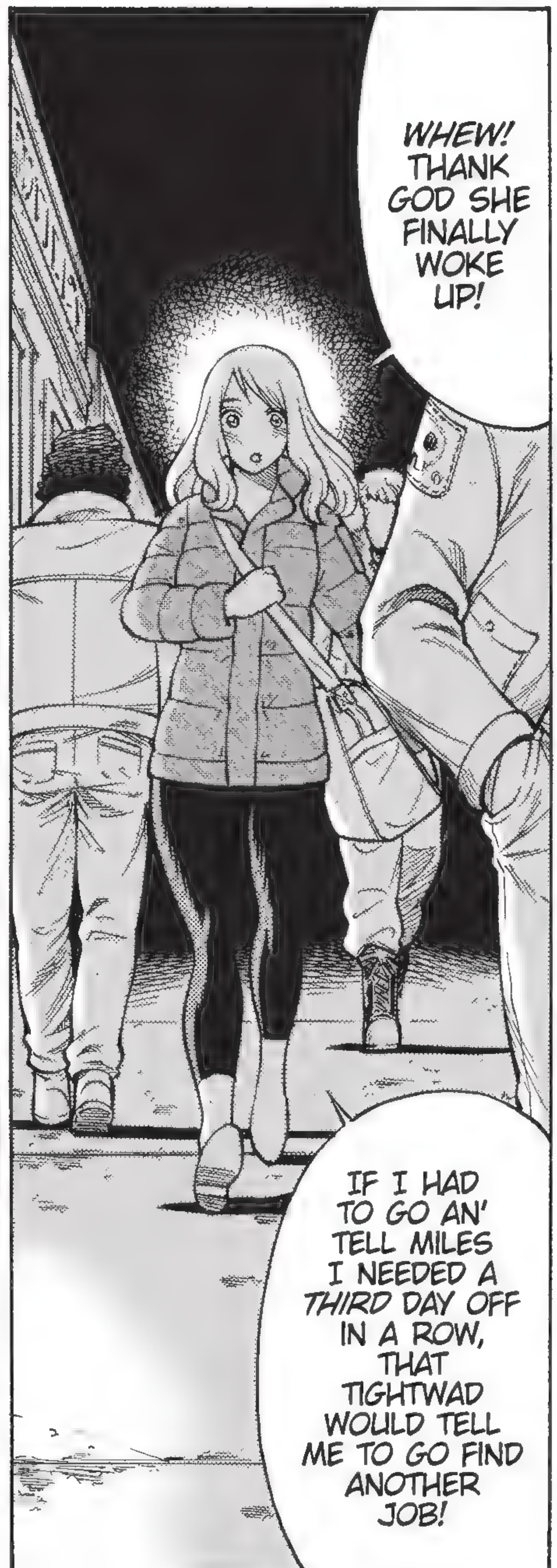
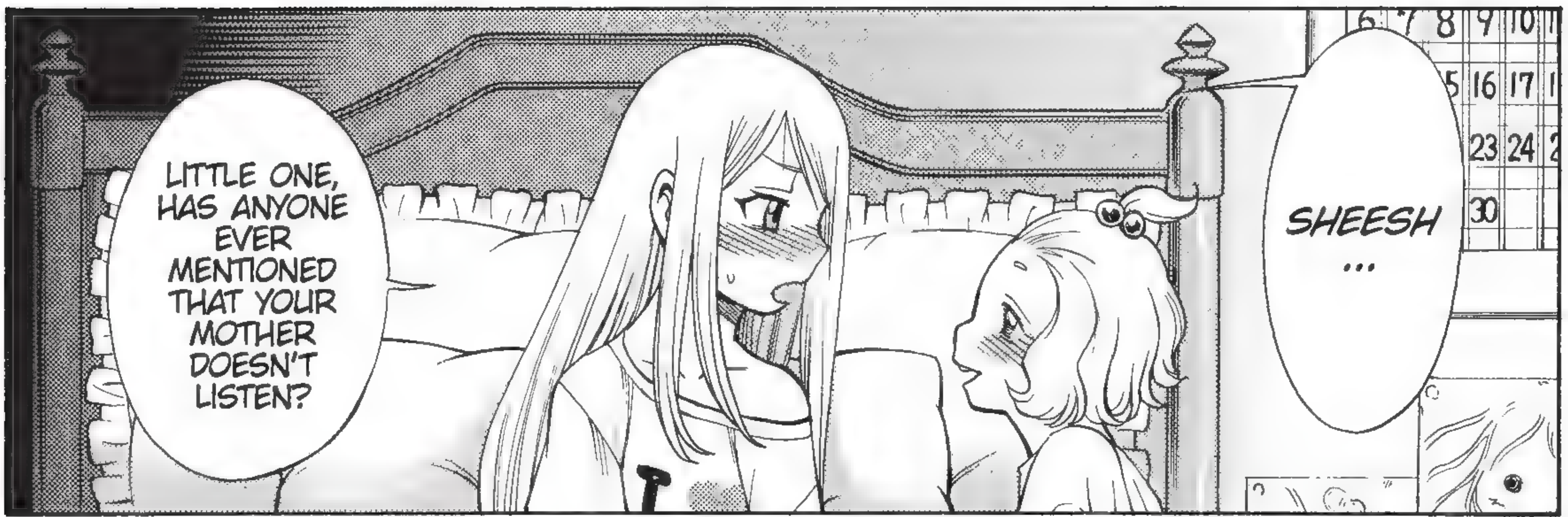






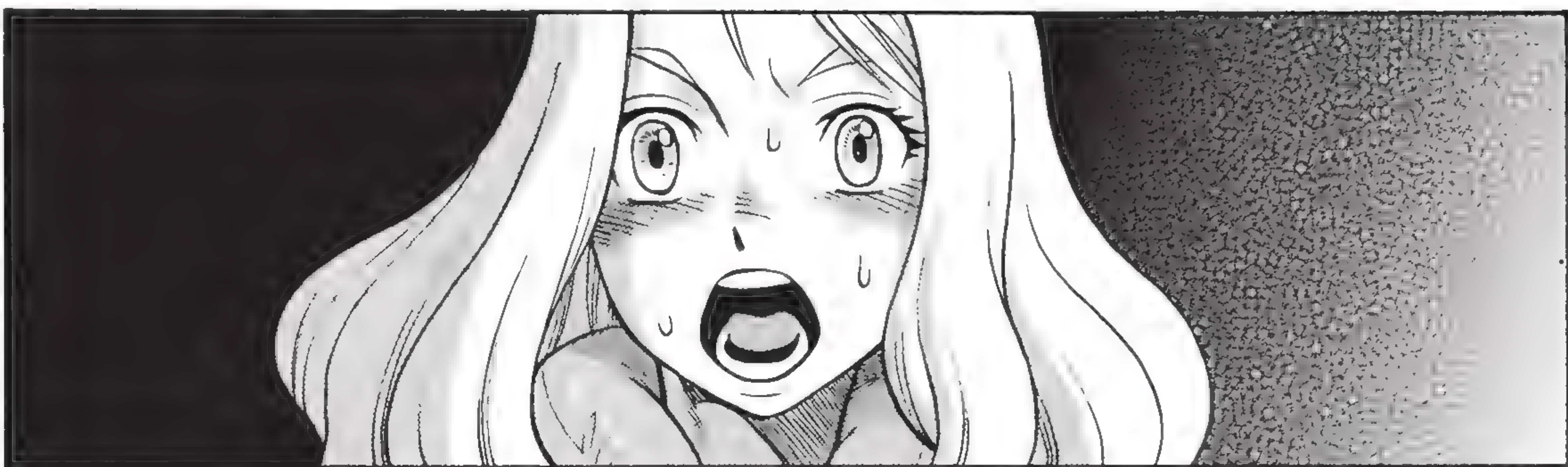
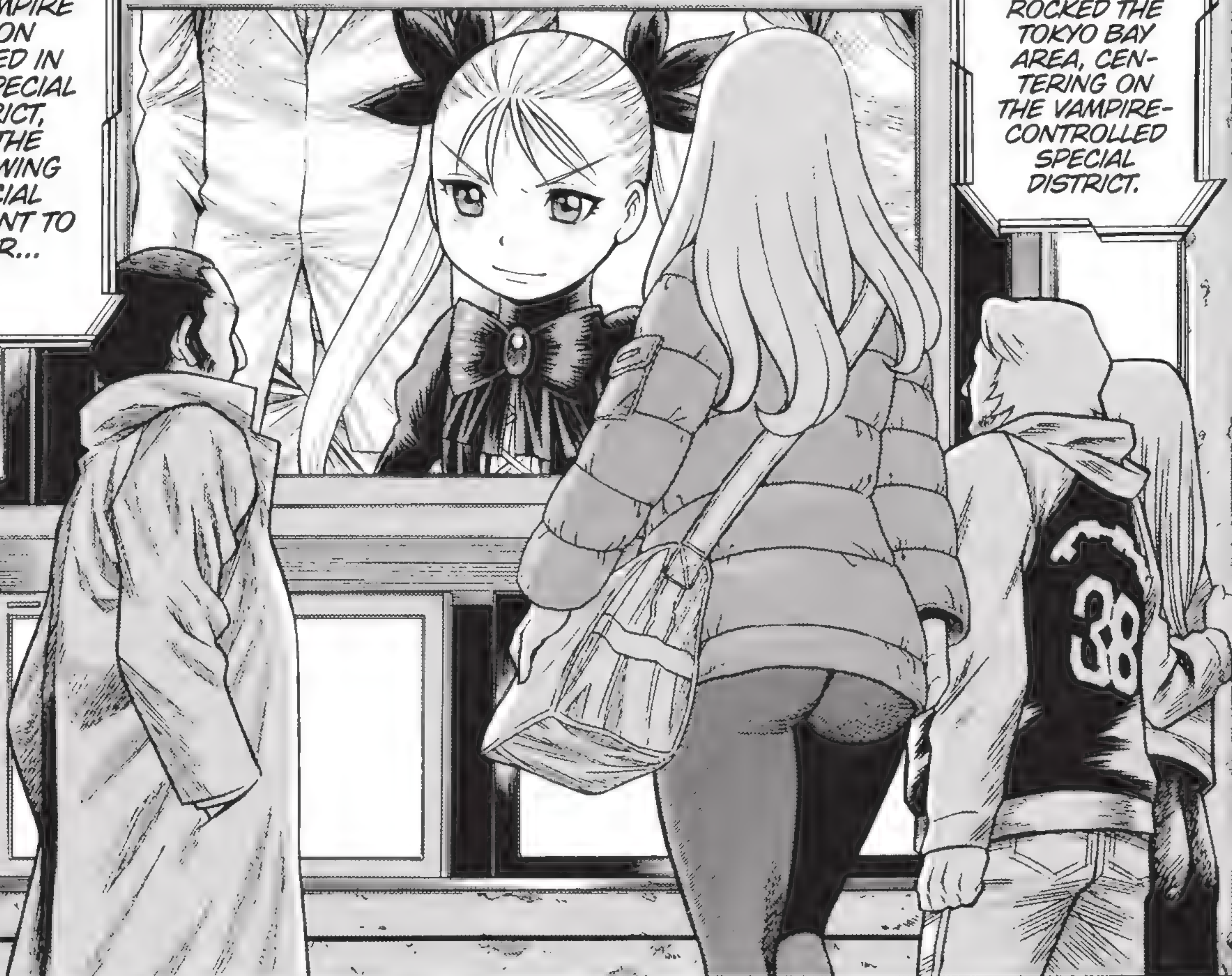




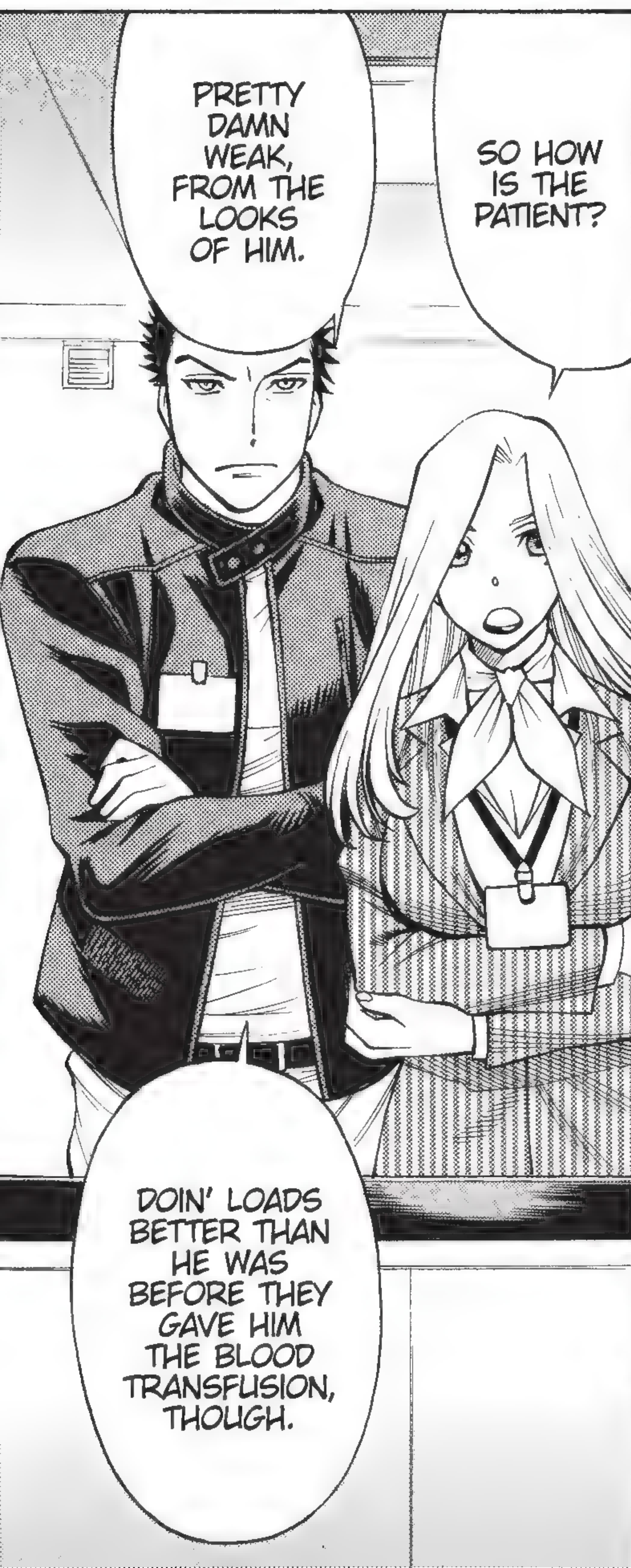
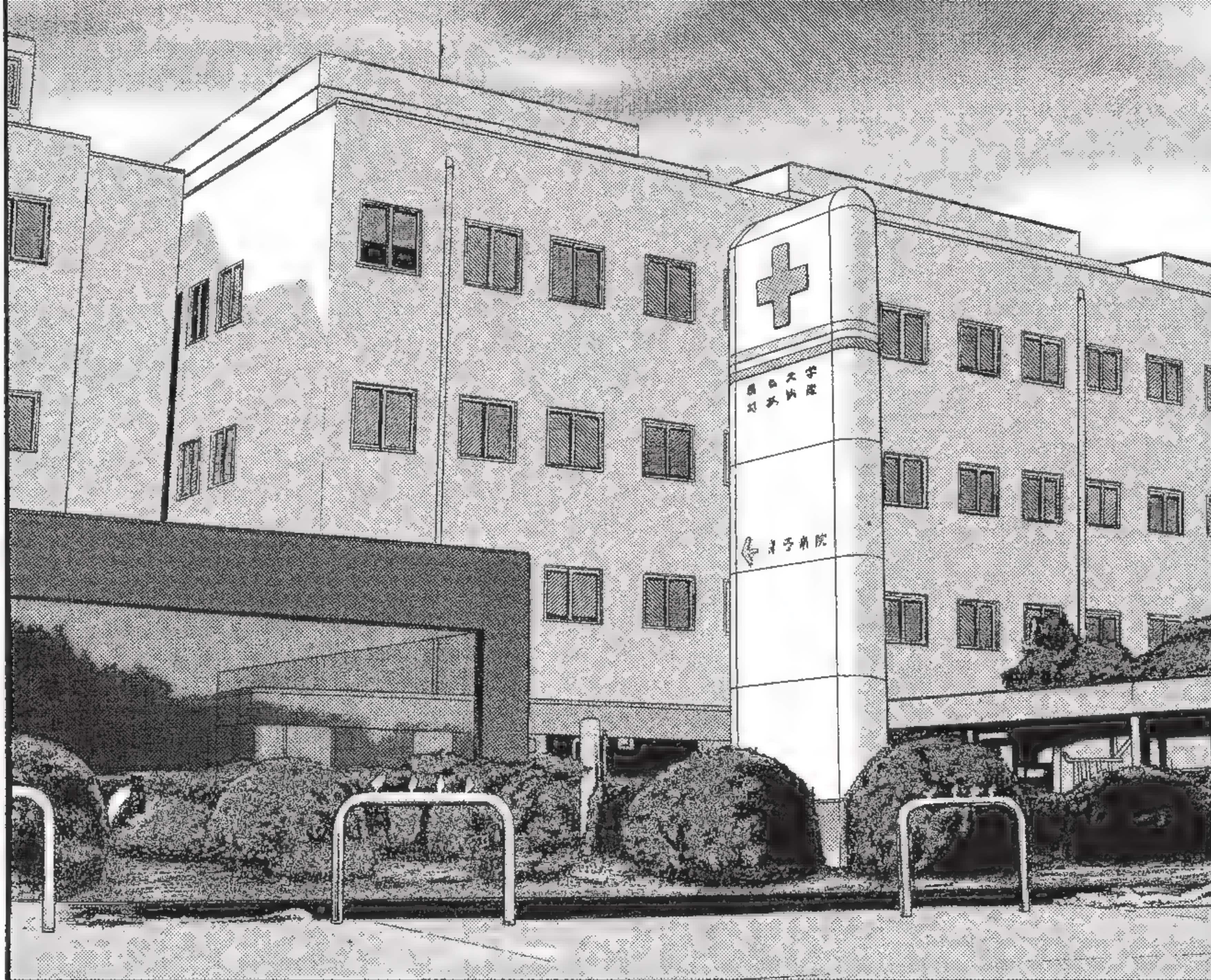
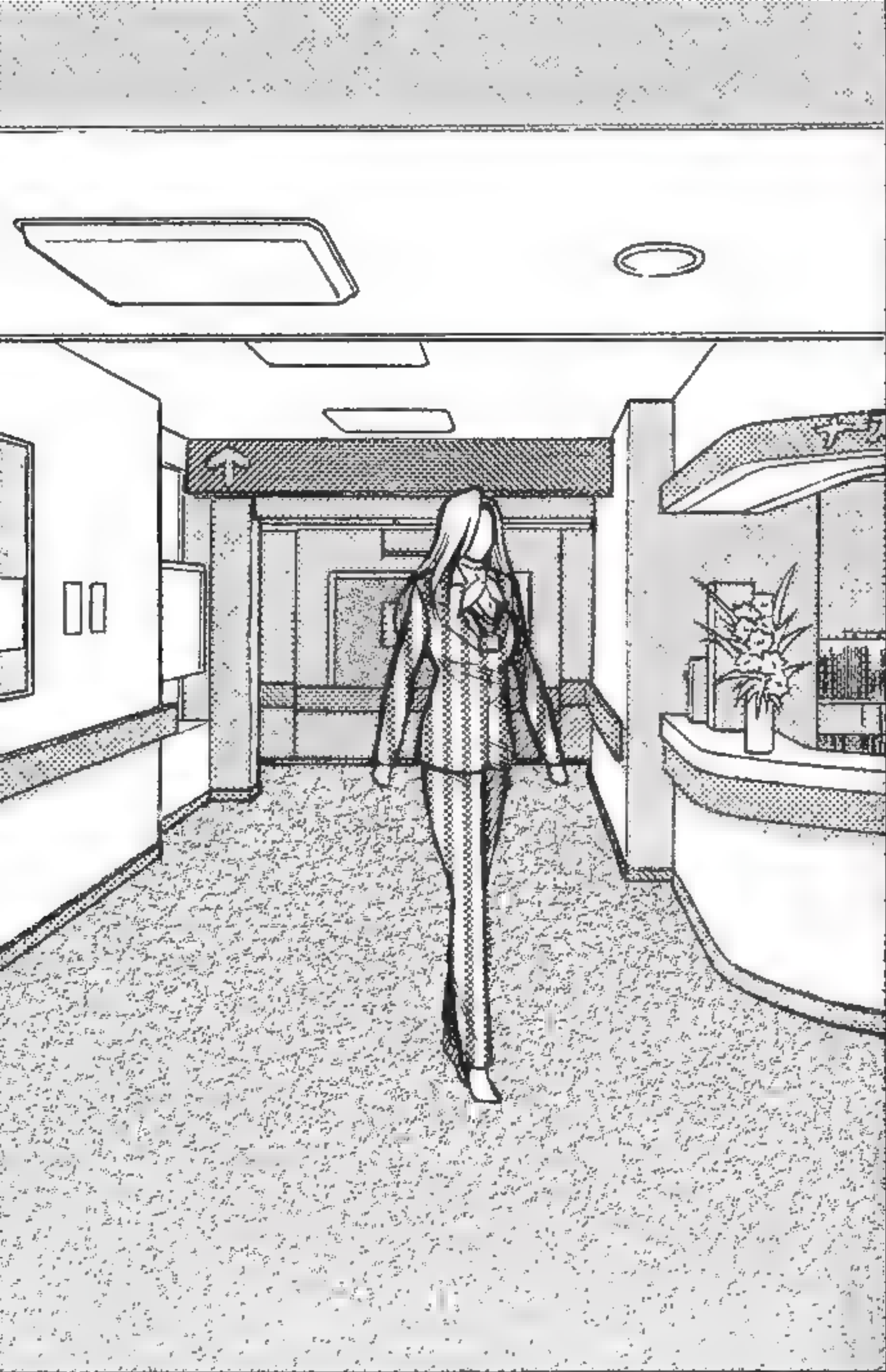


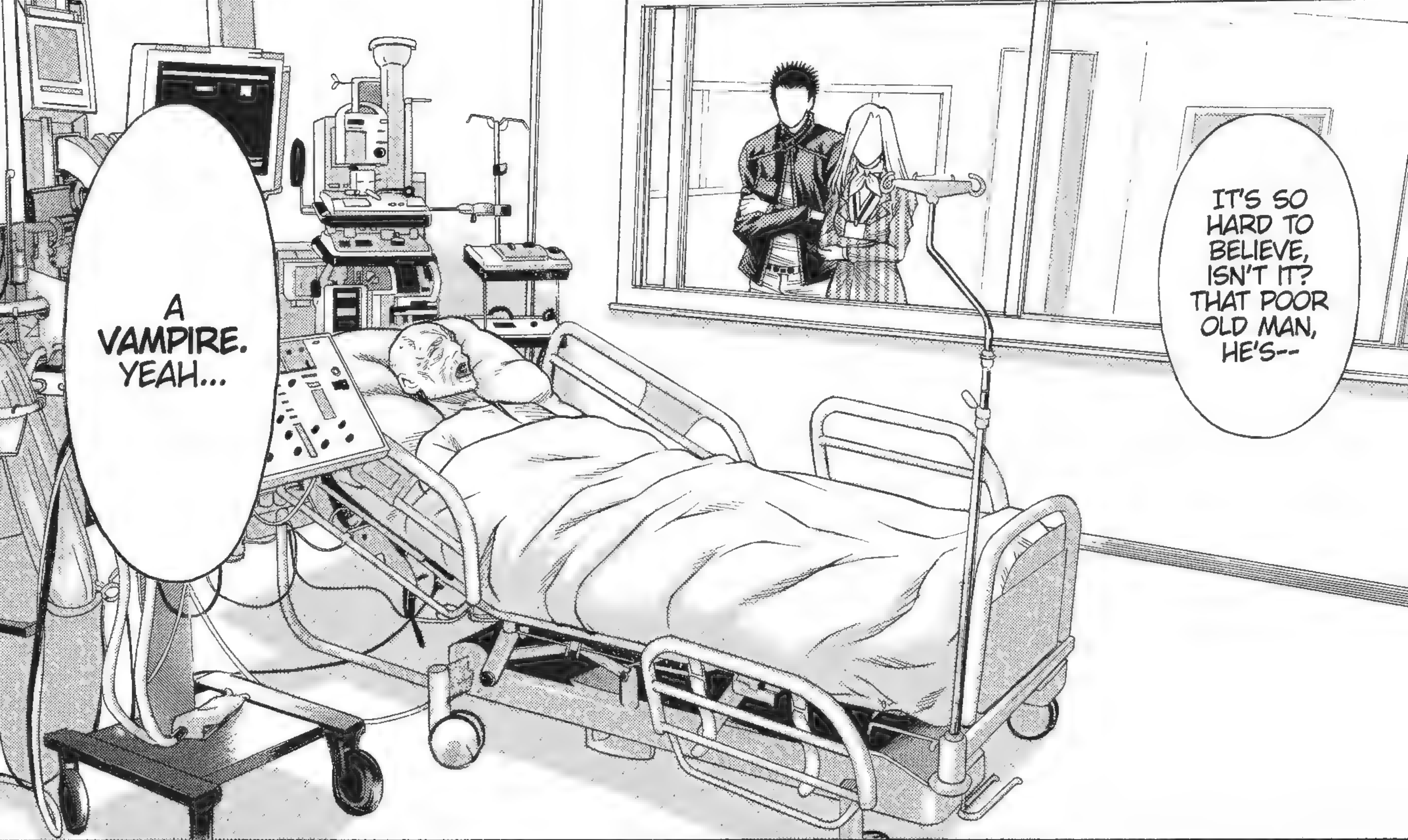
QUEEN MINA
TEPES,
LEADER OF
THE VAMPIRE
NATION
LOCATED IN
THAT SPECIAL
DISTRICT,
HAD THE
FOLLOWING
OFFICIAL
COMMENT TO
OFFER...

ONLY A FEW
DAYS AGO,
A FULLY-
ARMED AND
EXPLOSIVE
CONFLICT
ROCKED THE
TOKYO BAY
AREA, CEN-
TERING ON
THE VAMPIRE-
CONTROLLED
SPECIAL
DISTRICT.



YOU'RE
KIDDING
ME!!





A
VAMPIRE.
YEAH...

IT'S SO
HARD TO
BELIEVE,
ISN'T IT?
THAT POOR
OLD MAN,
HE'S--



AROUND HERE,
THE ONLY
VAMPIRES
YOU'LL USUALLY
SEE ARE THOSE
THAT LIVE OVER
THERE IN THE
BLIND. YOUNG.
ATHLETIC.
ACTIVE.

AT FIRST
GLANCE,
THAT OLD
GEEZER
ISN'T MUCH
MORE THAN
SOME OLD
HOMELESS
BUM.



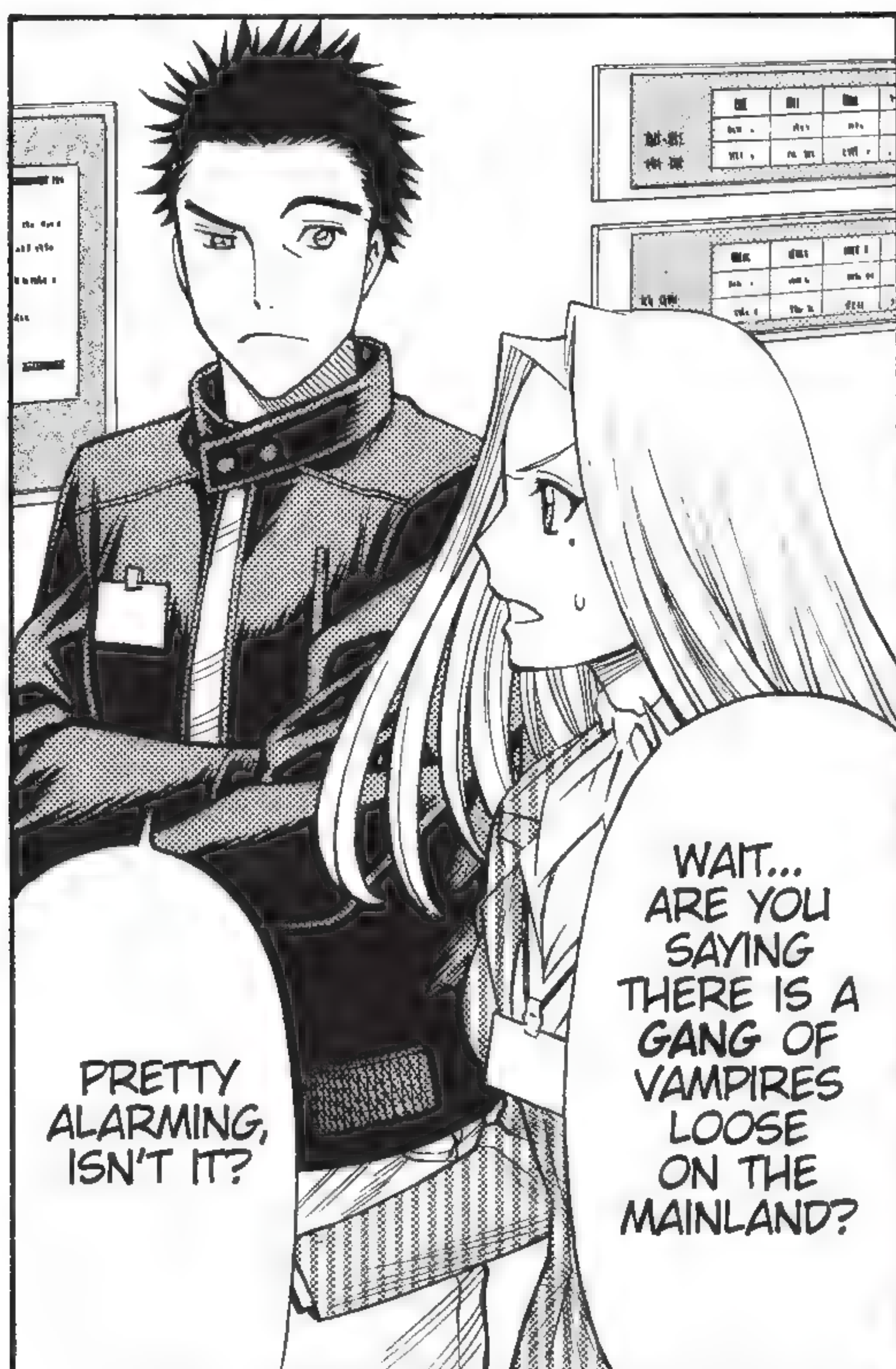
ALL HE
COULD DO WAS
FLAIL AROUND
AND GET
WEAKER AND
WEAKER
FROM THIRST.
GOT SO BAD
THAT HE
CRAWLED
HERE TO THE
HOSPITAL TO
BEG FOR
BLOOD.

SINCE
HE WAS
ALREADY
TOOTHLESS
WHEN HE
BECAME A
VAMPIRE,
HE DIDN'T
HAVE ANY
WAY OF
ATTACKING
PREY.

HA!
THE GUY
HARDLY
HAS ANY
TEETH
PERIOD,
LET
ALONE
ONES THAT
COULD
TURN INTO
FANGS.

THIS
IS JUST A
GUESS, BUT
IT SEEMS
PRETTY
OBVIOUS HE
WAS ALREADY
PRETTY DAMN
OLD WHEN
HE WAS
INITIALLY
TURNED.

I DON'T
SEE ANY
FANGS.
IS HE
ONE OF
THE
FANGLESS
?



PRETTY ALARMING, ISN'T IT?

WAIT... ARE YOU SAYING THERE IS A GANG OF VAMPIRES LOOSE ON THE MAINLAND?

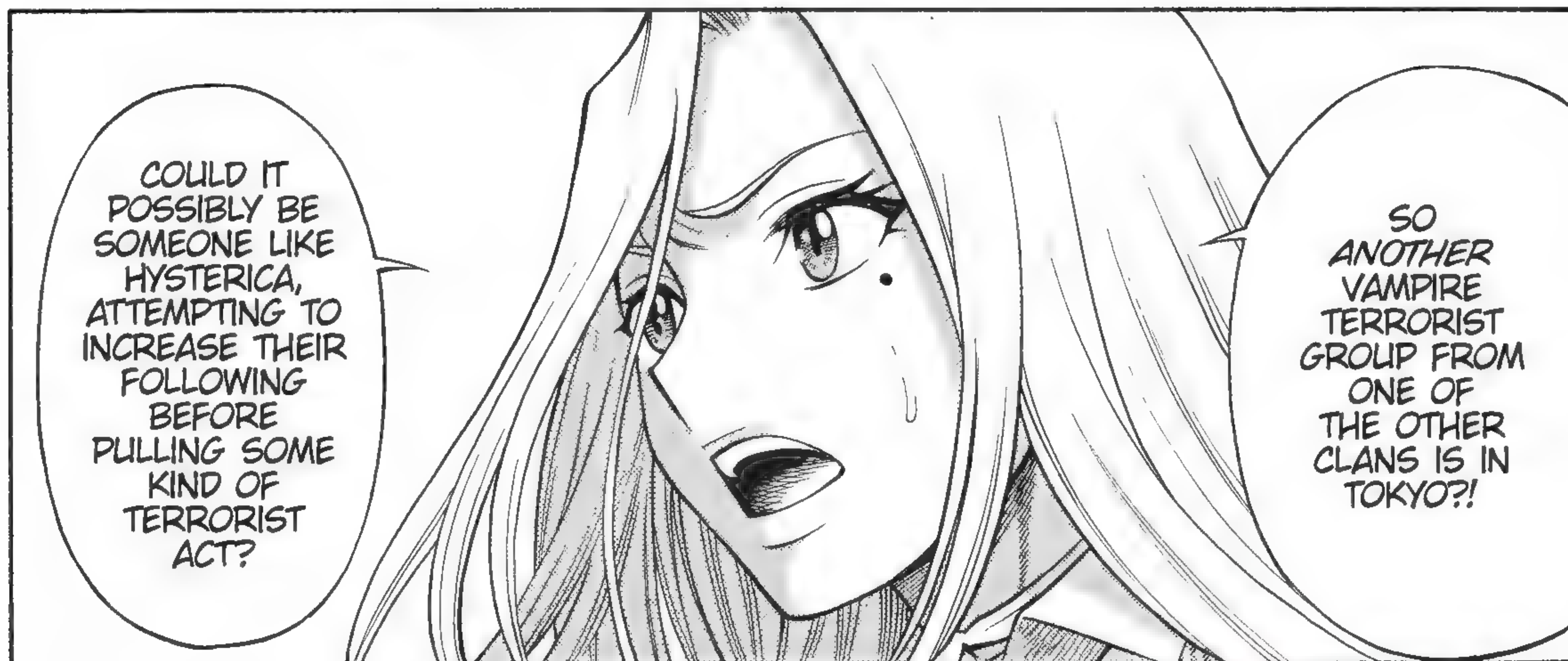


ACCORDING TO THE GEEZER HIMSELF ...

HE GOT ATTACKED. WAS SLEEPING OUT IN ONE OF THE PARKS BY THE SHORE WHEN HE GOT JUMPED BY A PACK OF 'EM.



SO WE HAVE A FAIRLY GOOD IDEA THAT HE WAS ALREADY AGED WHEN HE WAS TURNED. IS THERE ANYTHING THAT POINTS TO A PARTICULAR TIME OR PLACE?



COULD IT POSSIBLY BE SOMEONE LIKE HYSTERICA, ATTEMPTING TO INCREASE THEIR FOLLOWING BEFORE PULLING SOME KIND OF TERRORIST ACT?

SO ANOTHER VAMPIRE TERRORIST GROUP FROM ONE OF THE OTHER CLANS IS IN TOKYO?!

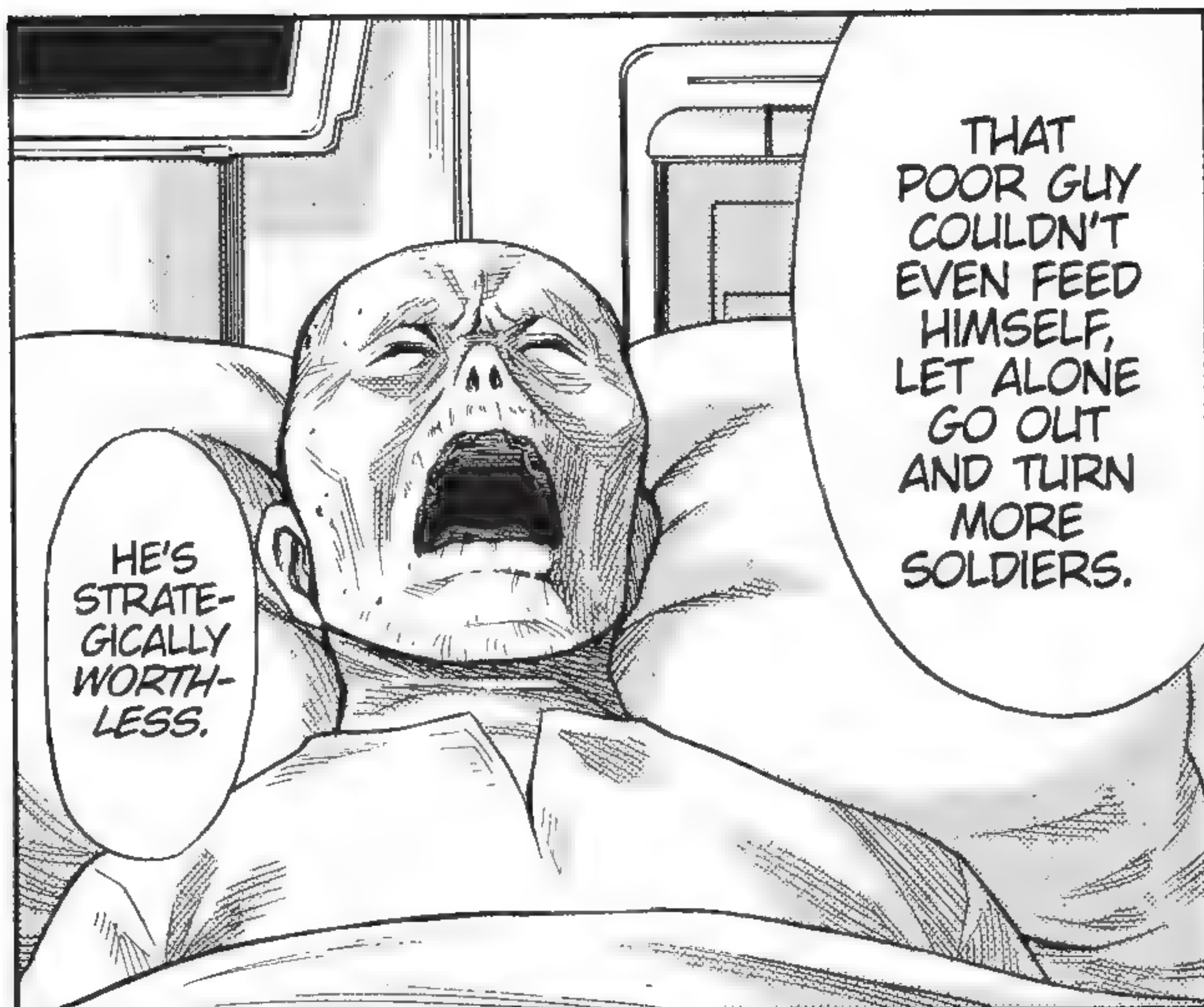


WHAT? YOU THINK IT'S SOMETHING ELSE?



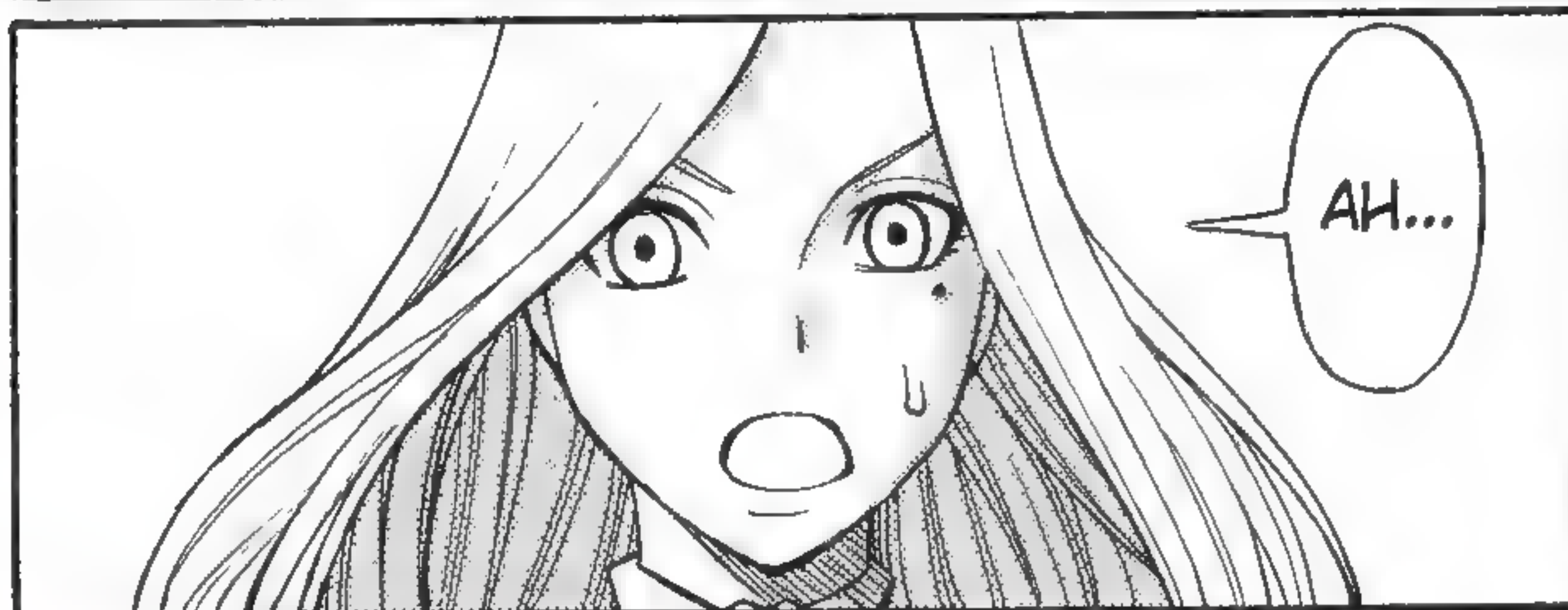
I SERIOUSLY DOUBT IT.

TO BE HONEST?



HE'S STRATEGICALLY WORTHLESS.

THAT POOR GUY COULDN'T EVEN FEED HIMSELF, LET ALONE GO OUT AND TURN MORE SOLDIERS.



AH...



GOTTA BE. I MEAN, LOOK AT HIM. IF SOME TERRORIST FACTION IS HERE, LOOKIN' TO CONSCRIPT SOME NEW RECRUITS, THEY'RE GONNA GO AFTER THE YOUNG AND ATHLETIC, NOT SOME TOOTHLESS CODGER.



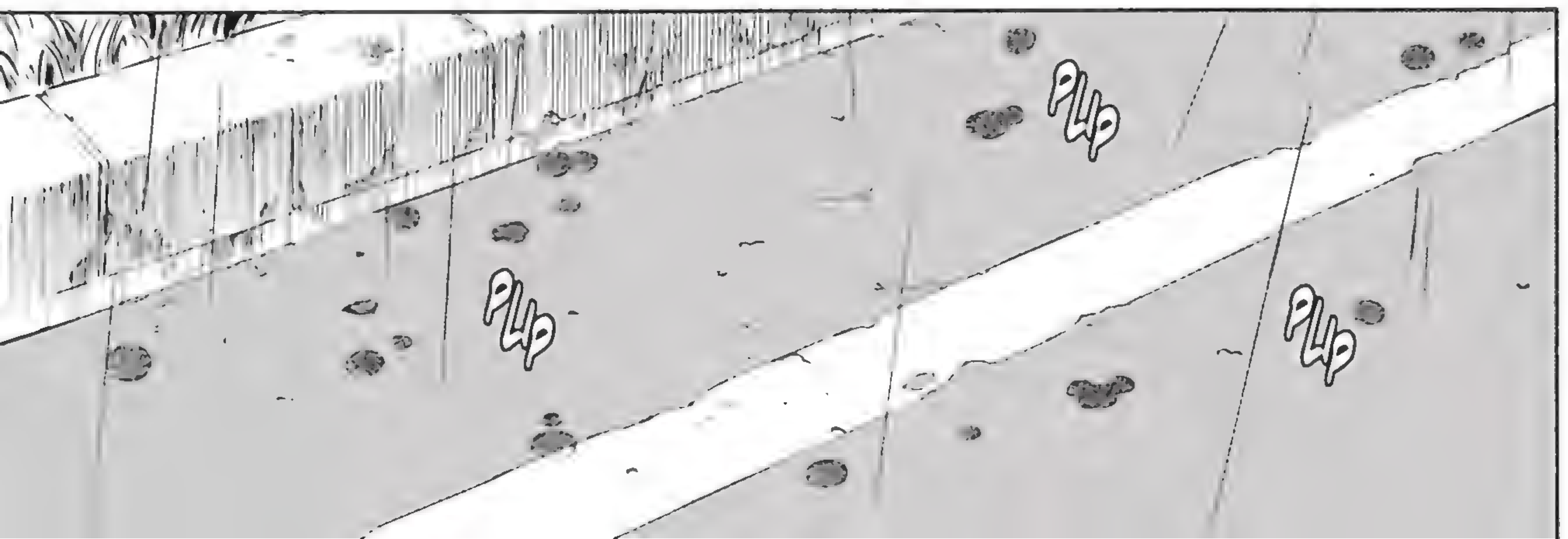
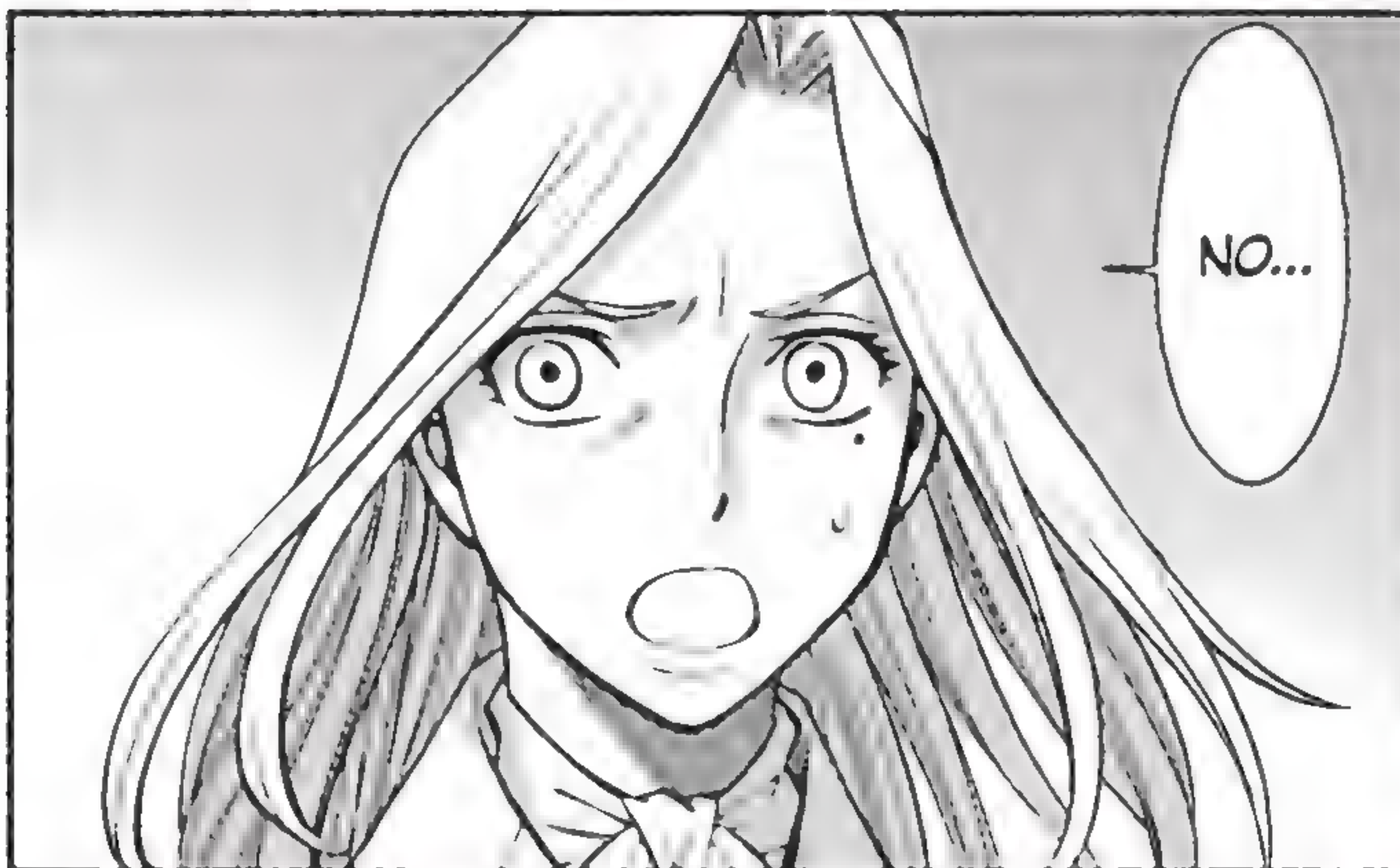
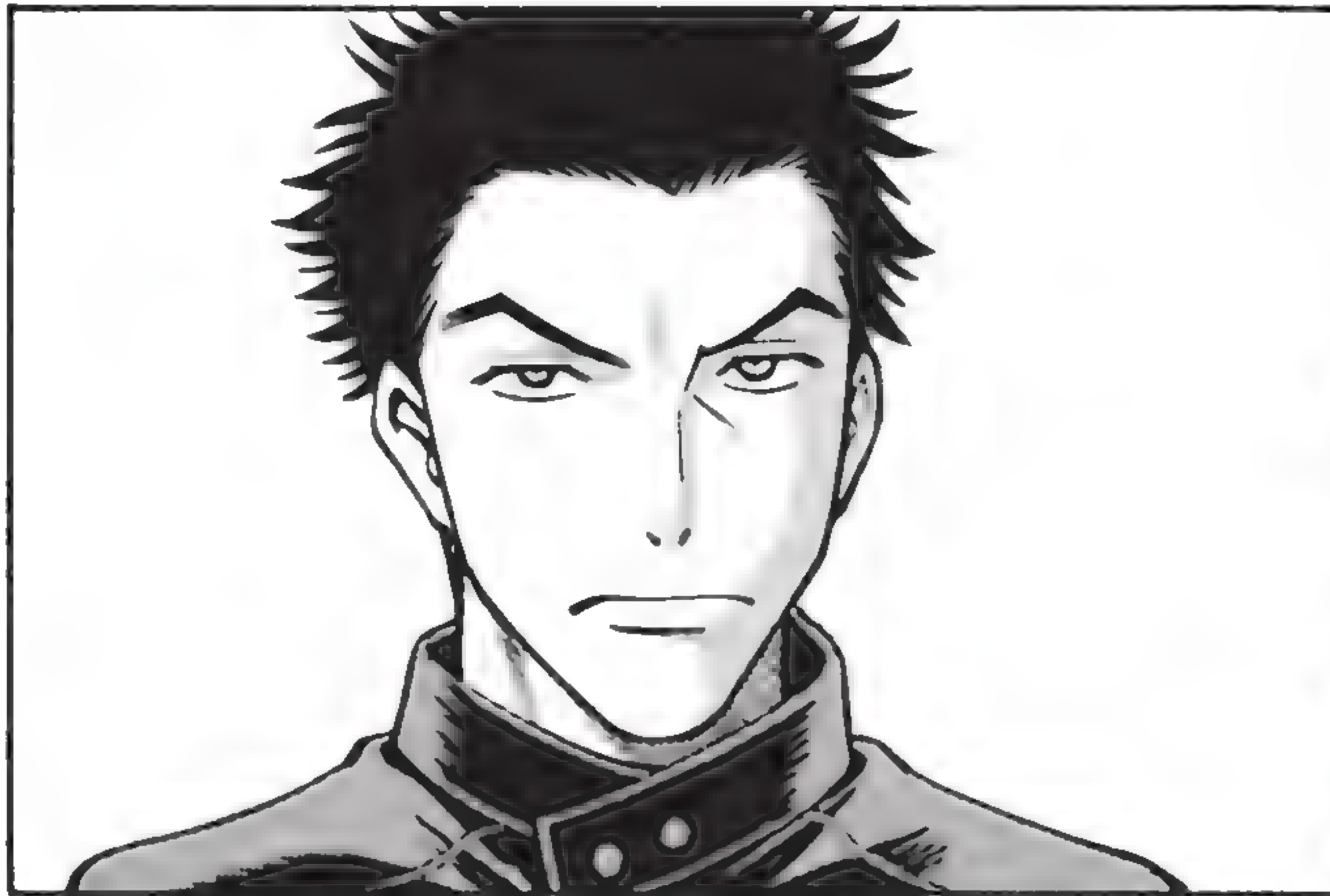
THEY AREN'T ORGANIZED, AND THEY DON'T HAVE ANY OBJECTIVE OUTSIDE OF SIMPLE SURVIVAL. THEY HIT WHAT THEY WANT, WHEN THEY WANT IT.

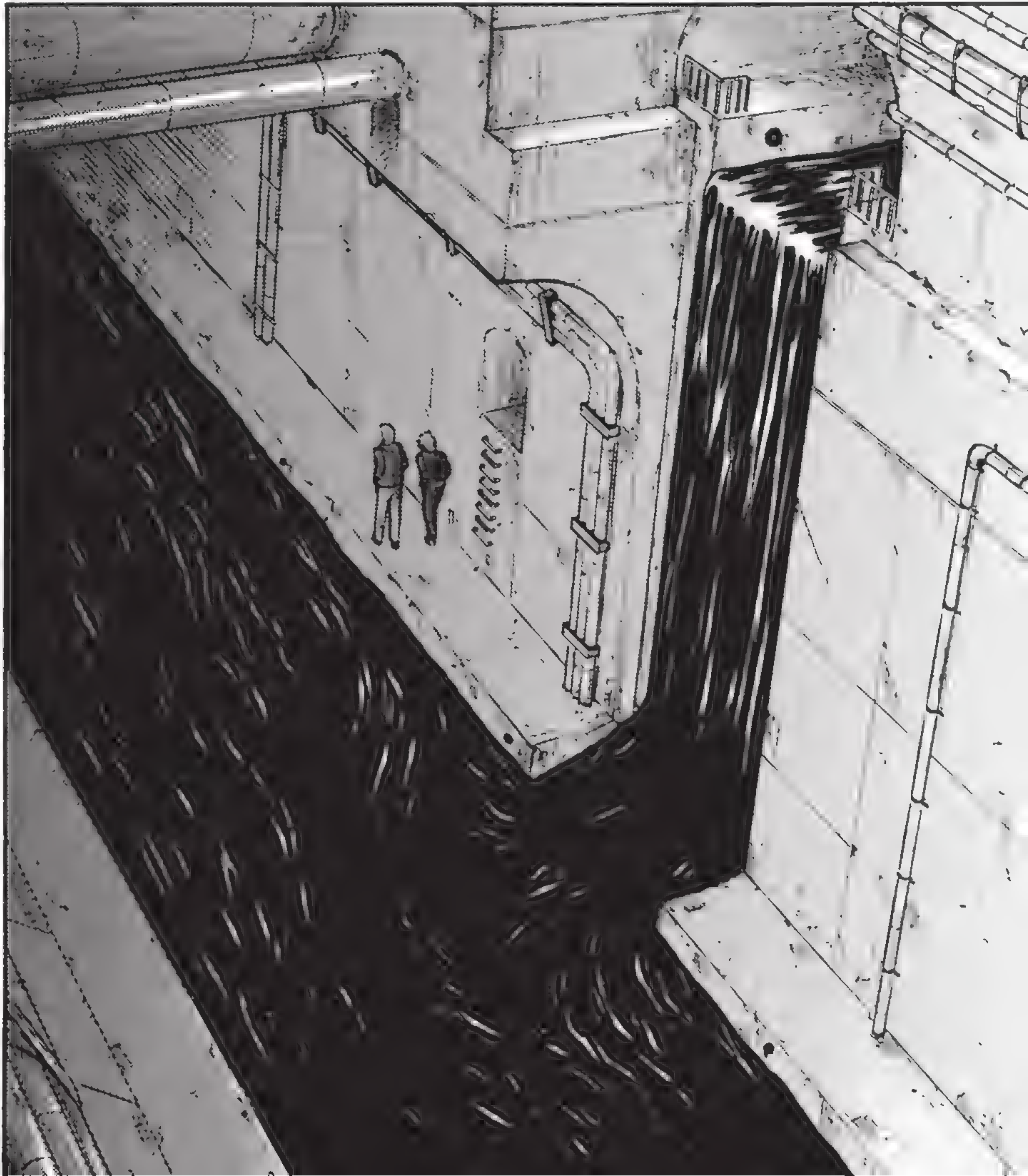
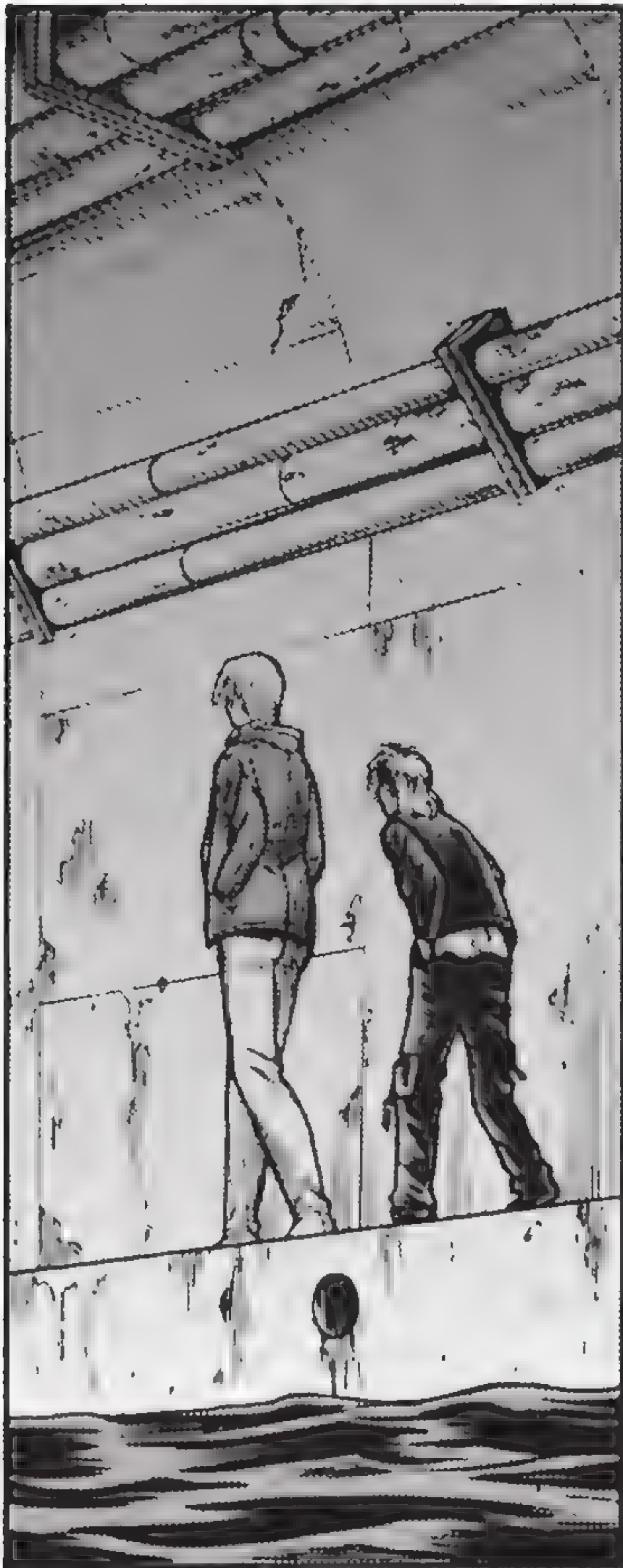
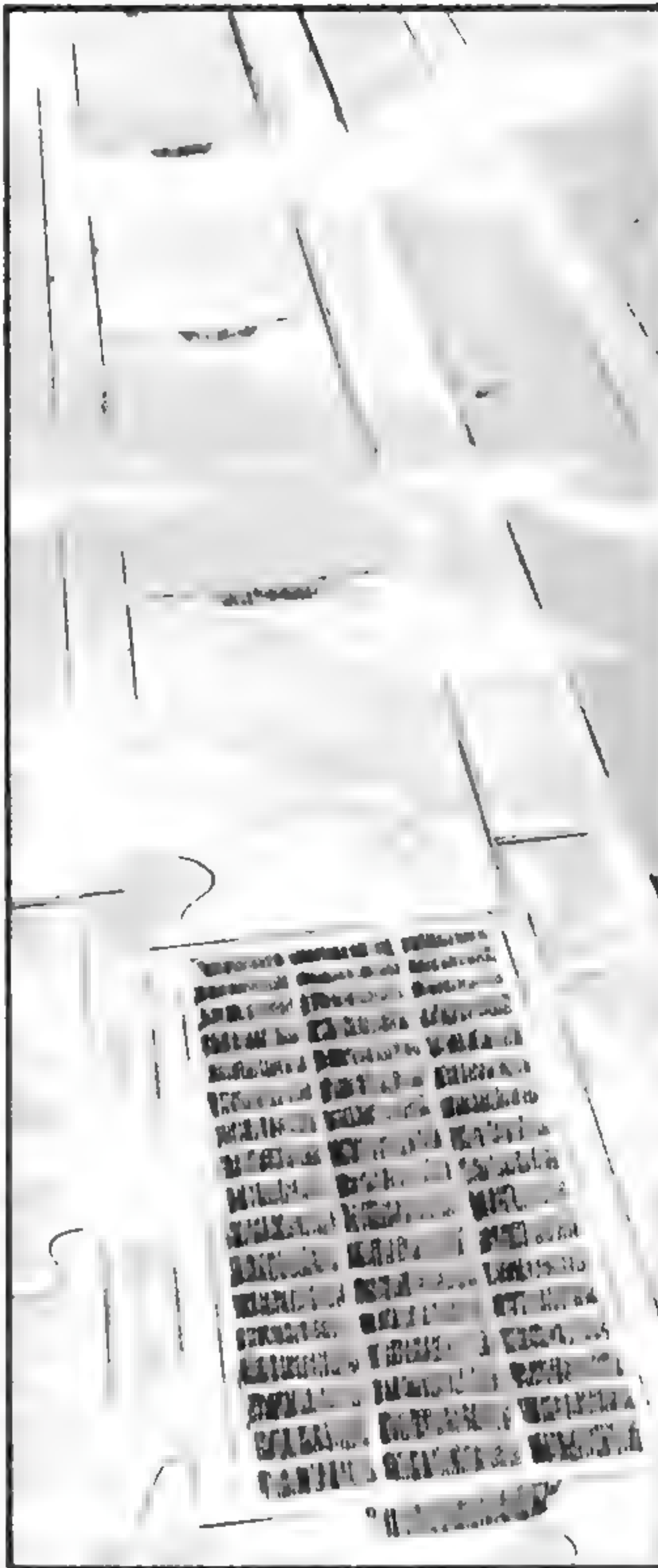
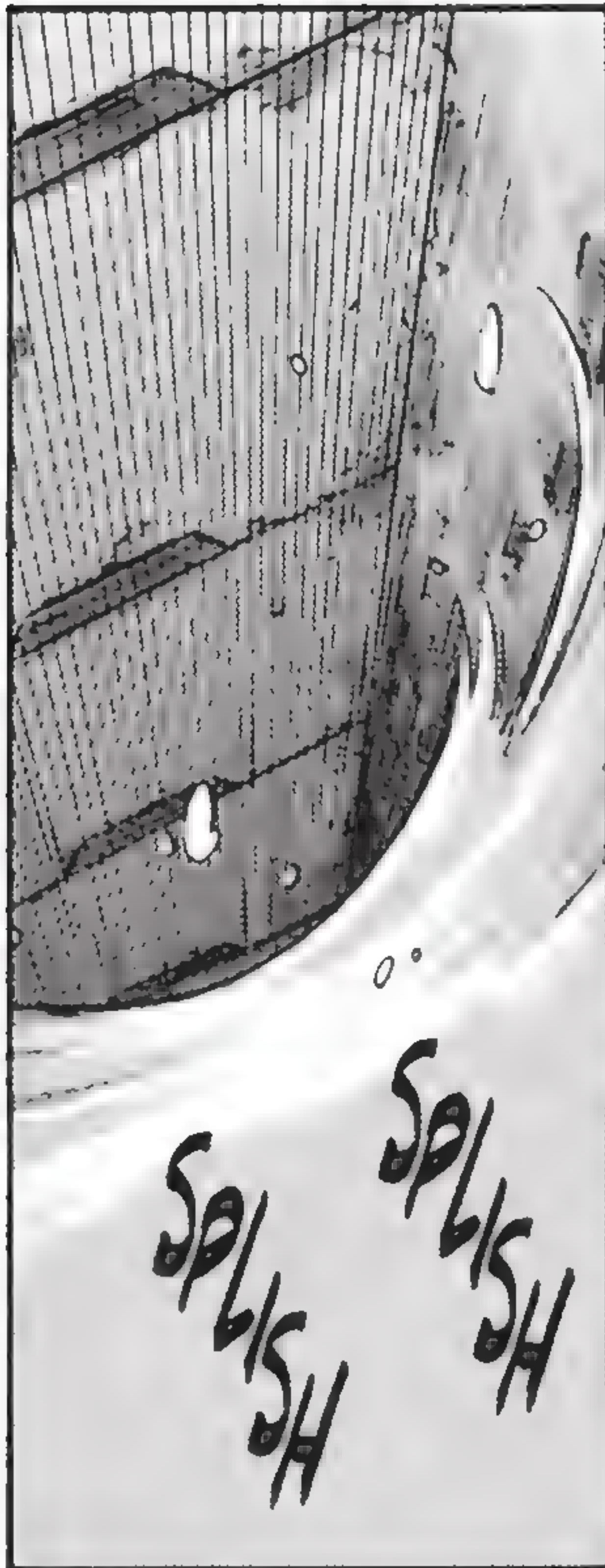
TRUTH BE TOLD, I REALLY WISH IT WAS A TERRORIST GROUP WE WERE DEALING WITH. THEY'D BE A HELLVA LOT LESS OF A PAIN IN THE ASS THAN WHAT IS HIDING OUT THERE, SOMEWHERE.



THEN WHO ATTACKED HIM?!

PROBABLY SOME GROUP OF PLAIN OLD, REGULAR VAMPIRES, OUT LOOKING FOR AN EASY MARK...









YOU GOTTA KNOW WHAT I'M TALKIN' ABOUT, RIGHT?!

I CAN'T HELP IT, MAN! I GET THIRSTY! DAMN THIRSTY !!



HOW MANY TIMES DO WE GOTTA TELL YOU TO QUIT IT?!

YOU DID! YOU WENT OUT AND ATTACKED SOME HELPLESS PERSON!!



AND WE ALL JUST GOTTA ACCEPT IT! I MEAN...

WE NEED BLOOD. IT'S A FACT OF LIFE NOW...

SHUT IT! DON'T GO DOWN THAT ROAD WITH ME, MAN!

DUDE, WAKE UP ALREADY! WE CAN'T AFFORD NICETIES LIKE THAT NO MORE!

SO?! NO MEANS NO, MAN!



ARE YOU TWO ARGUING AGAIN?



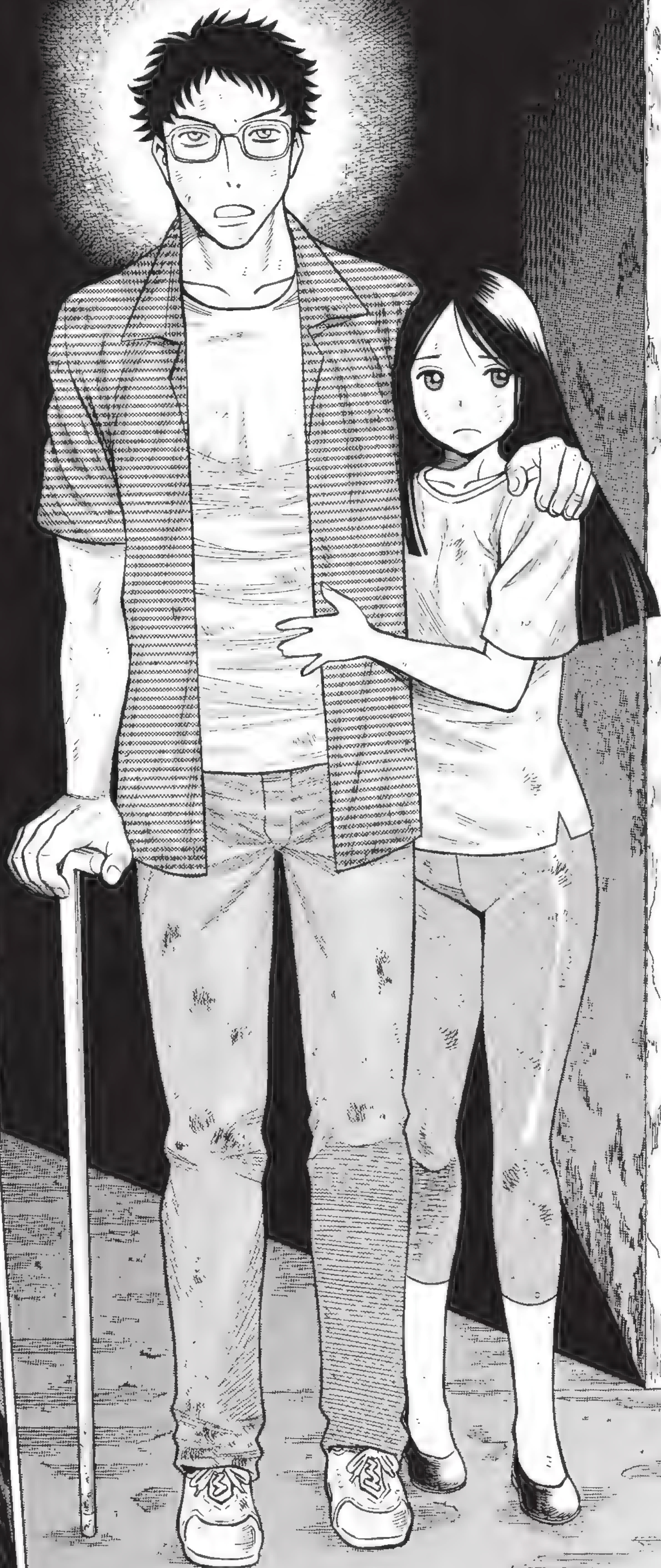
WHAT'S GOING ON?

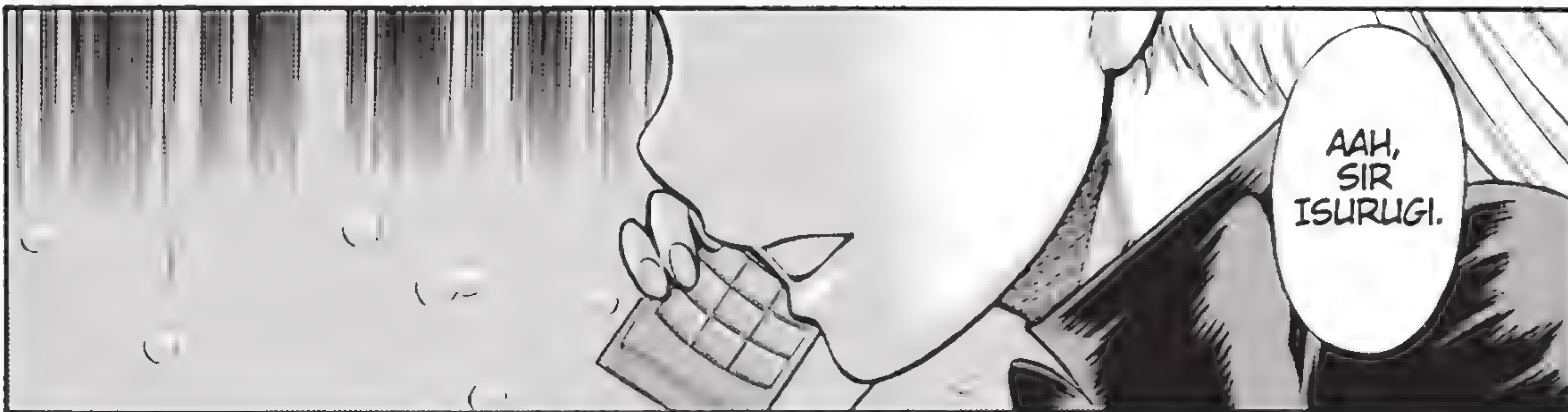


WE'RE ALL VAMPIRES NOW!!

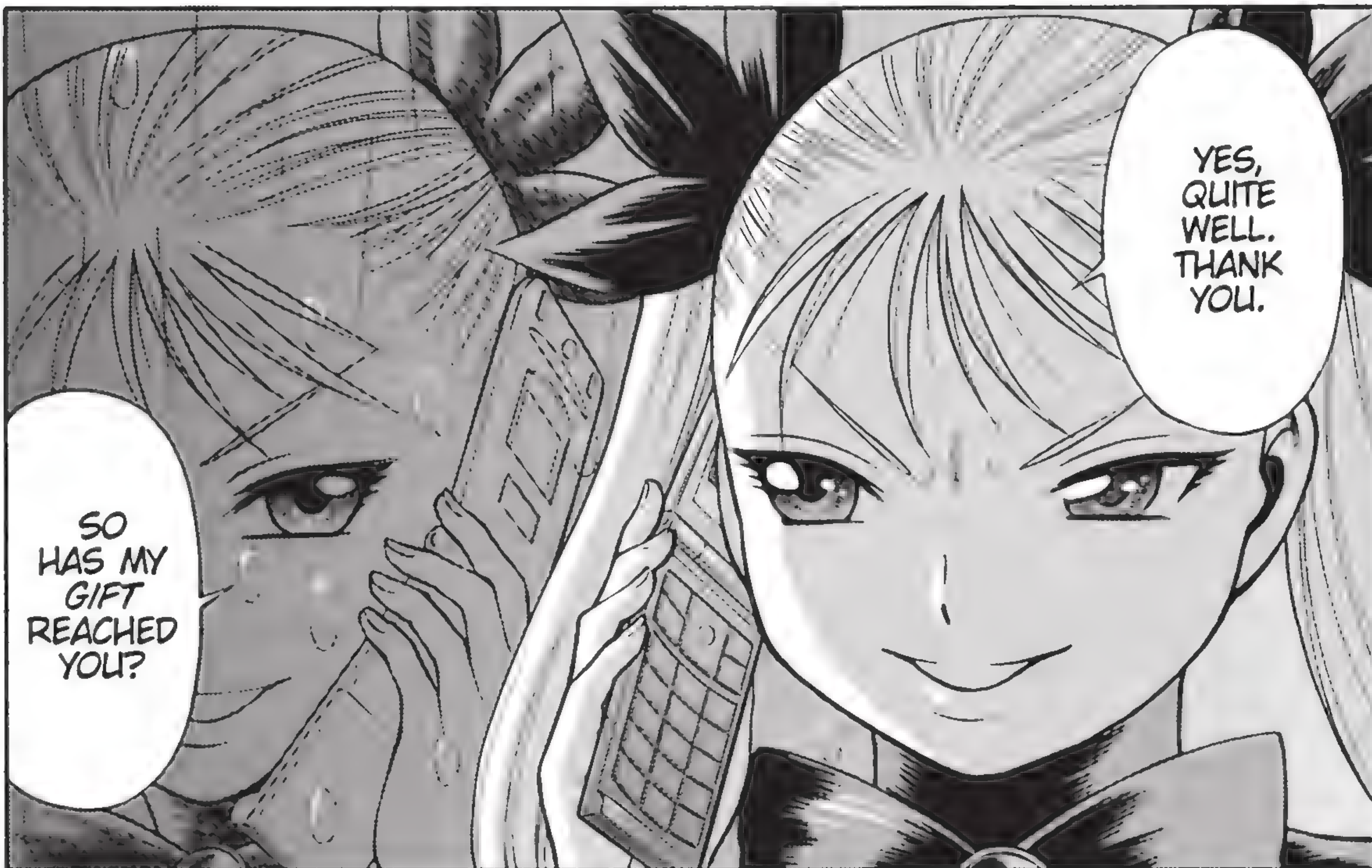
RYING

RYING





AAH,
SIR
ISURUGI.



YES,
QUITE
WELL.
THANK
YOU.

SO
HAS MY
GIFT
REACHED
YOU?



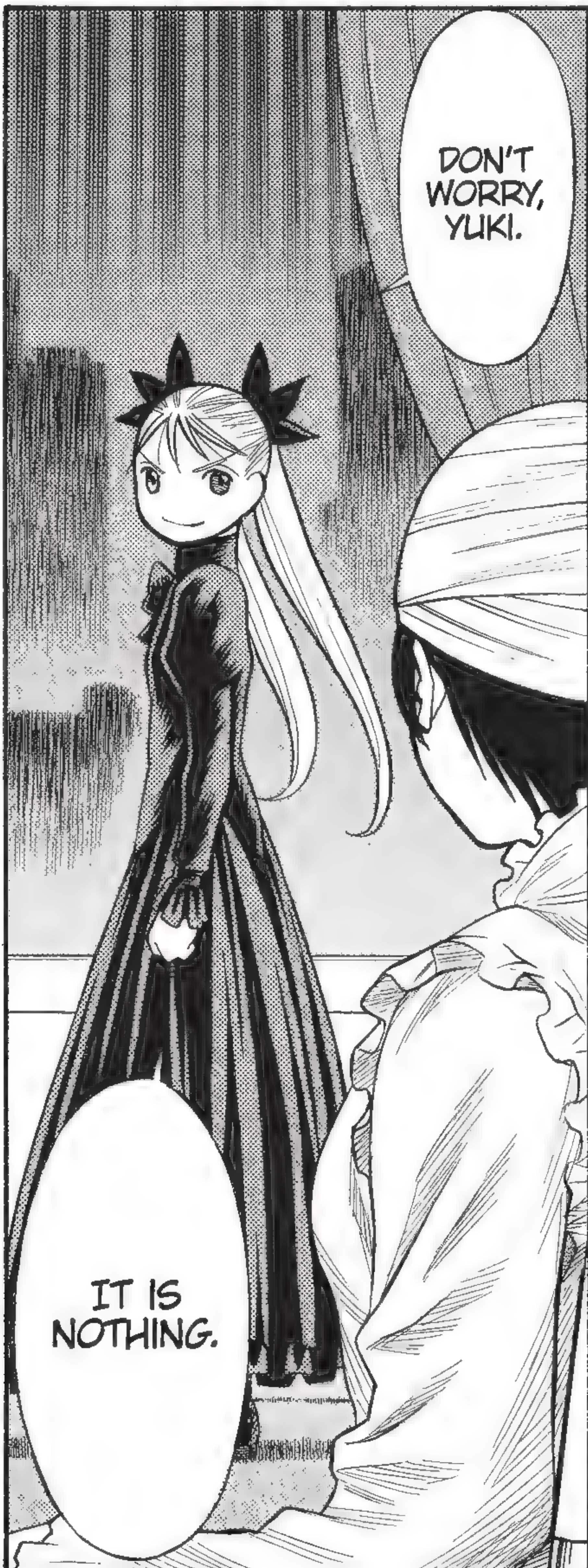
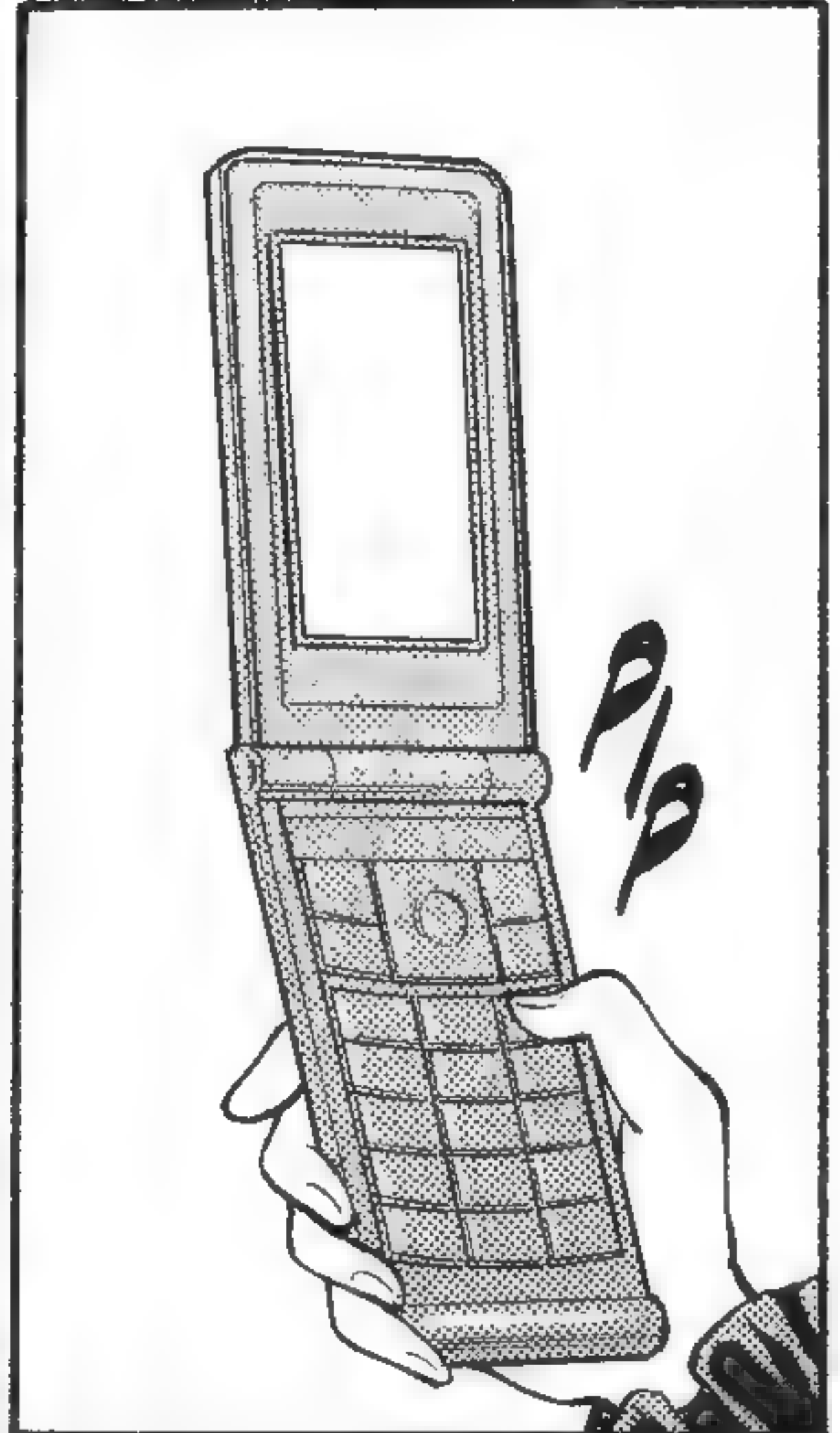
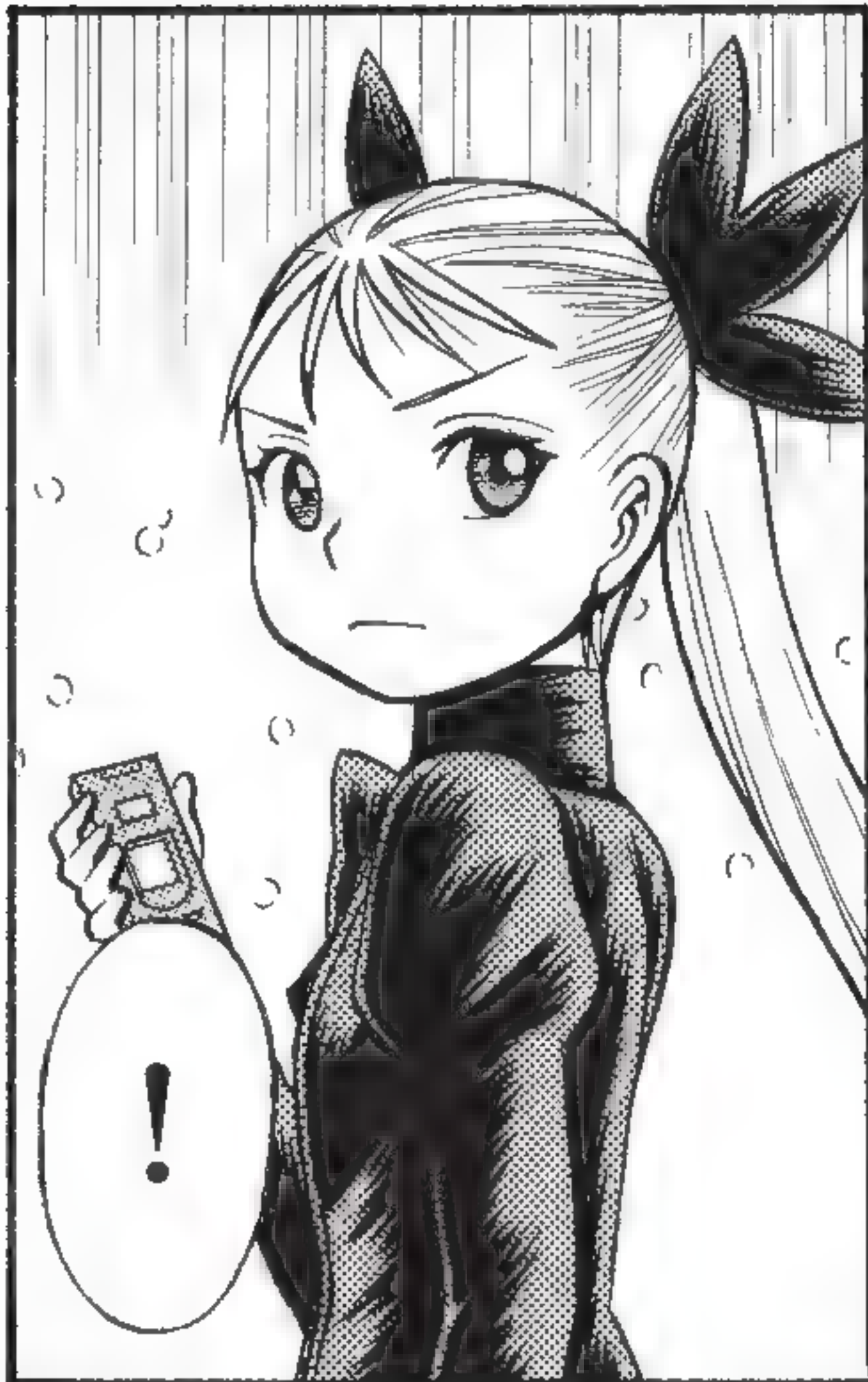
YES.

I WILL
MAKE VERY
GOOD
USE OF IT,
YOU
CAN BE
ASSURED.

YES.

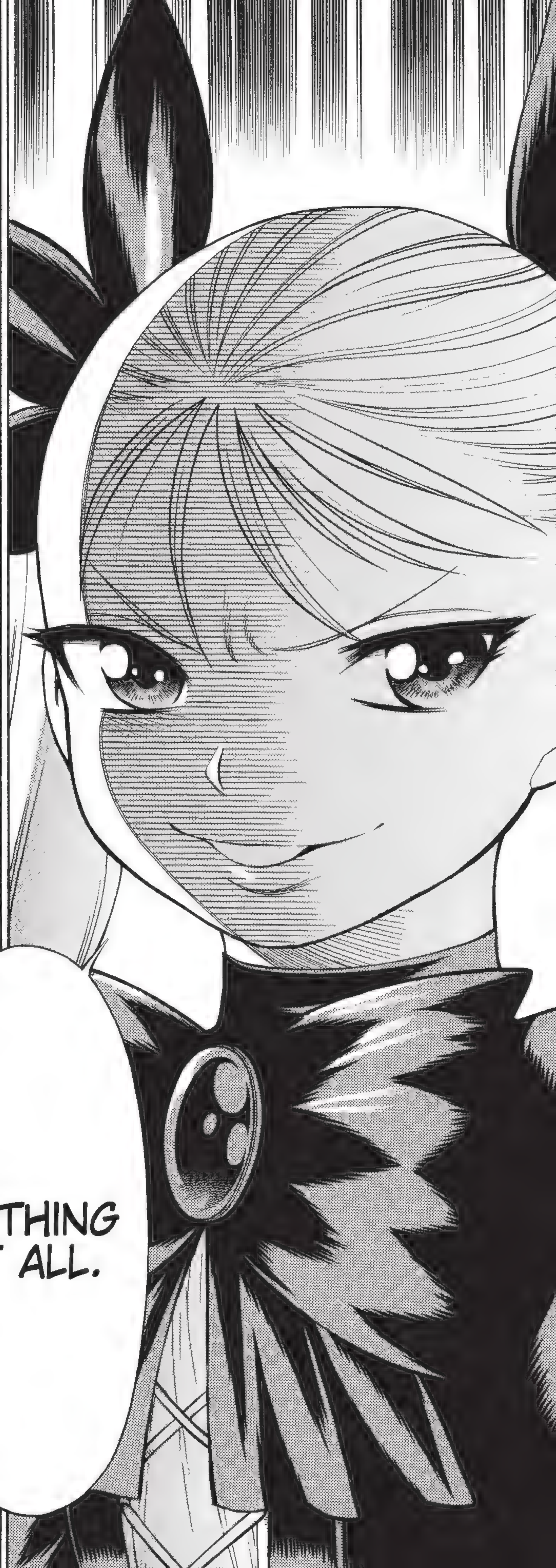
YES.

OF
COURSE.
I WISH
YOU
HEALTH
AND
LONG LIFE,
YOUR
MAJESTY.





NOTHING
AT ALL.





Chapter 57: Red Doubt

SO...

EXACTLY.

WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT THE GIRL I SAW ON THE TV IS SOME KIND OF FAKE...

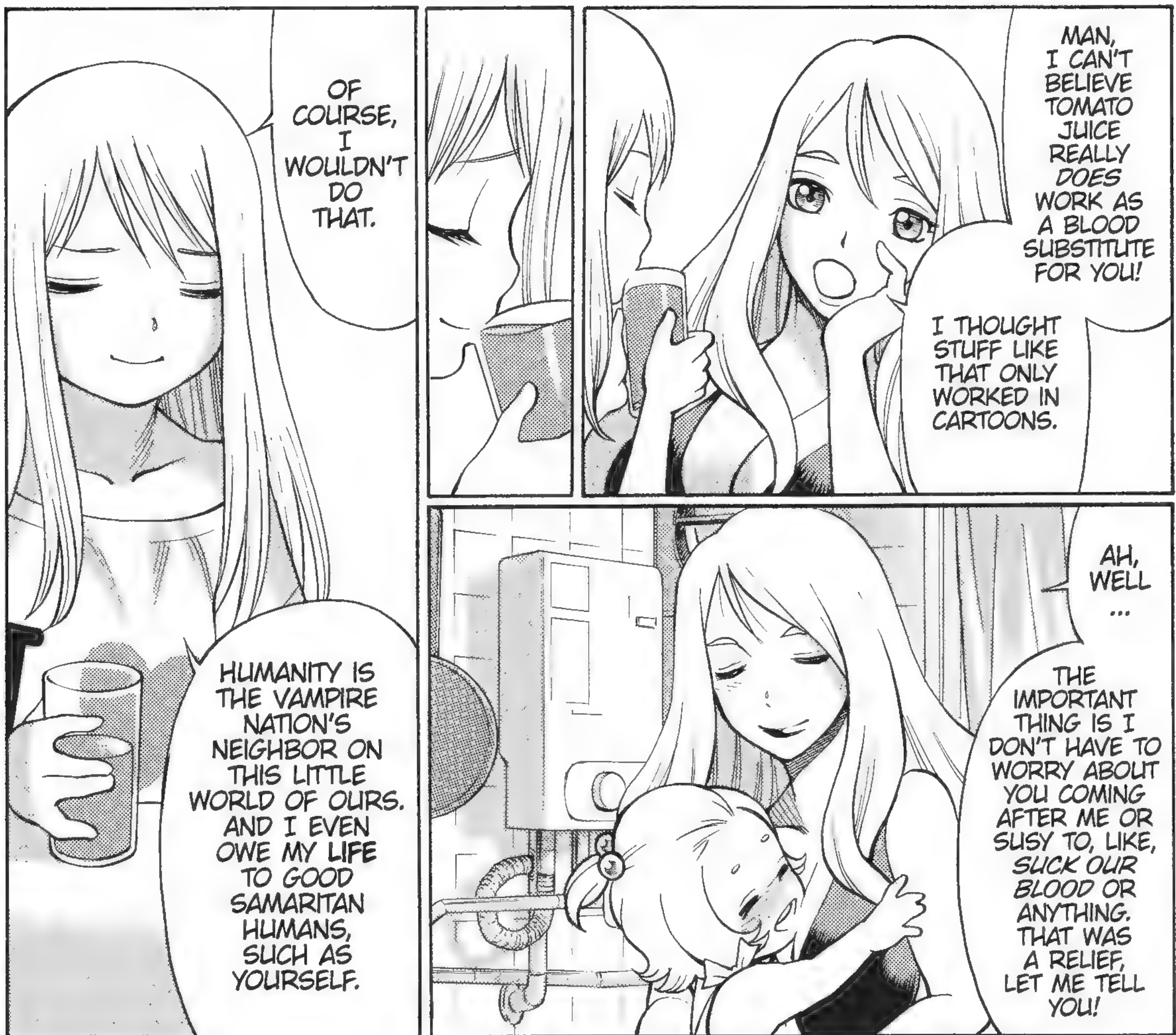
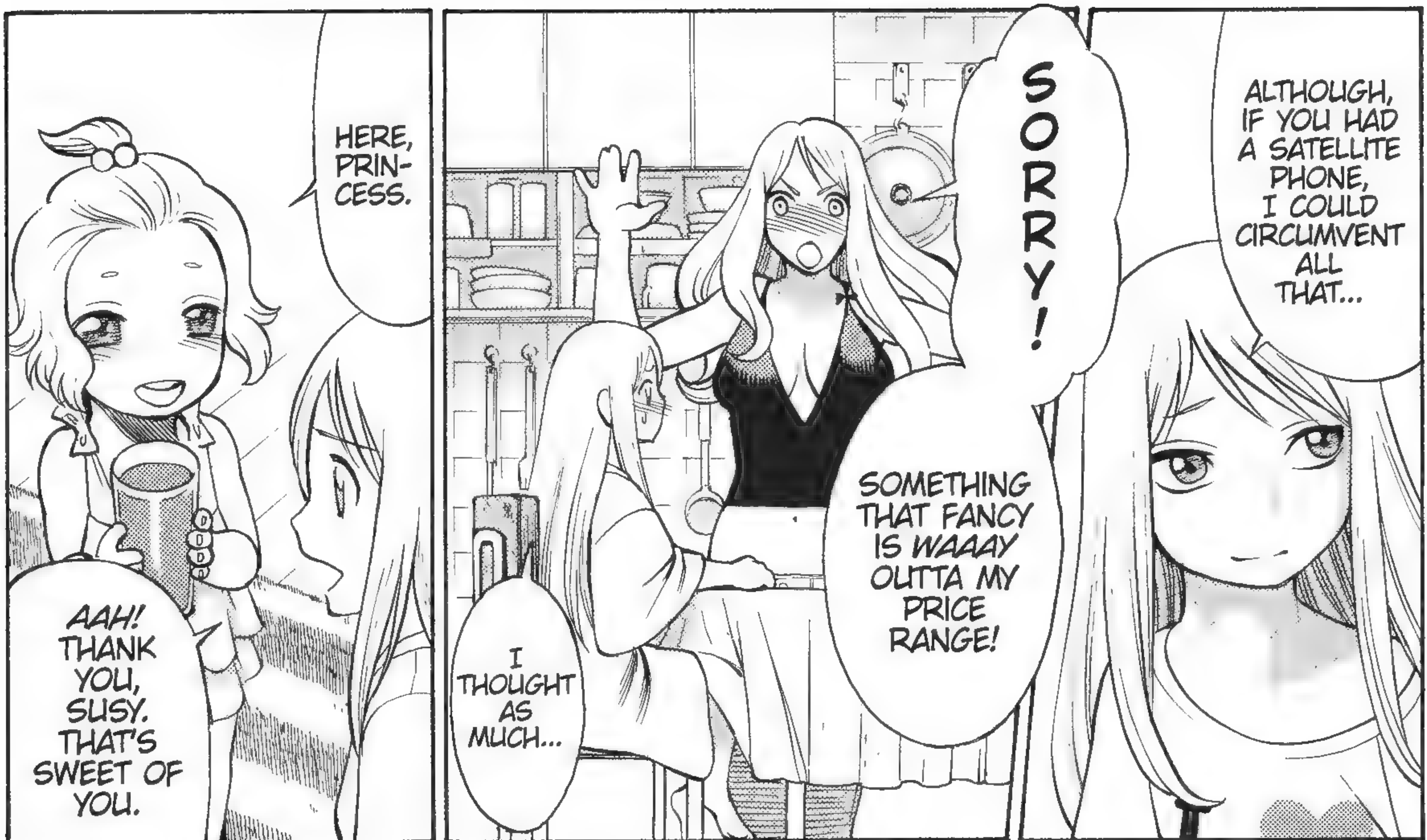
WHILE SITTING RIGHT HERE IN MY KITCHEN IS THE TRUE, HONEST-TO-GOD QUEEN OF THE VAMPIRES.

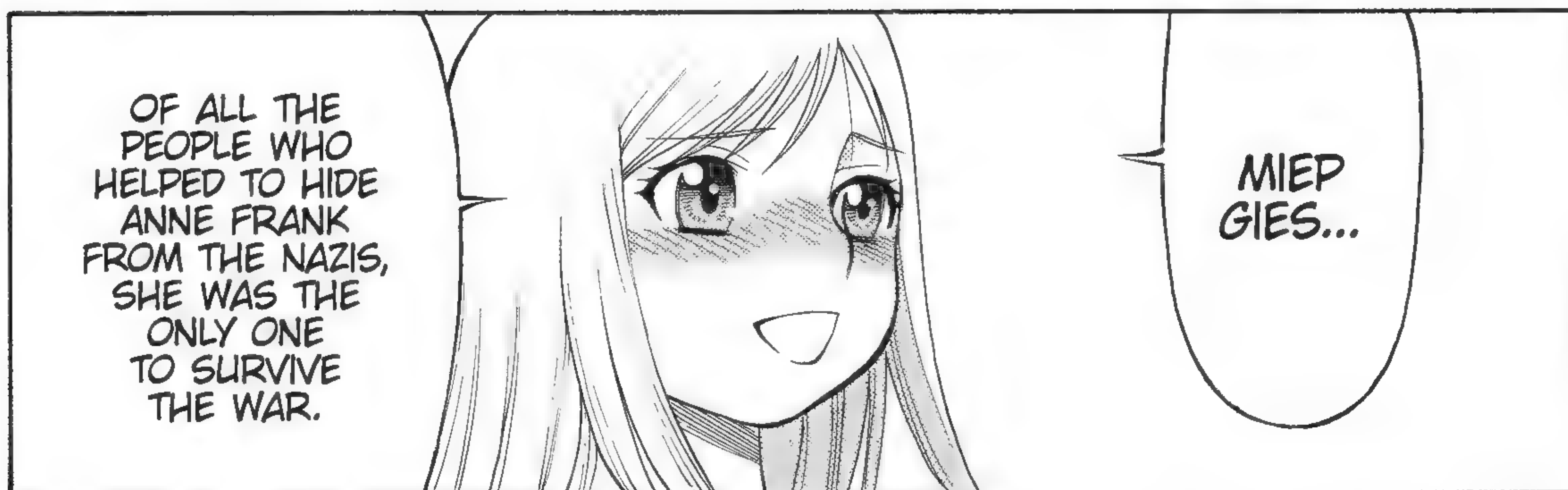
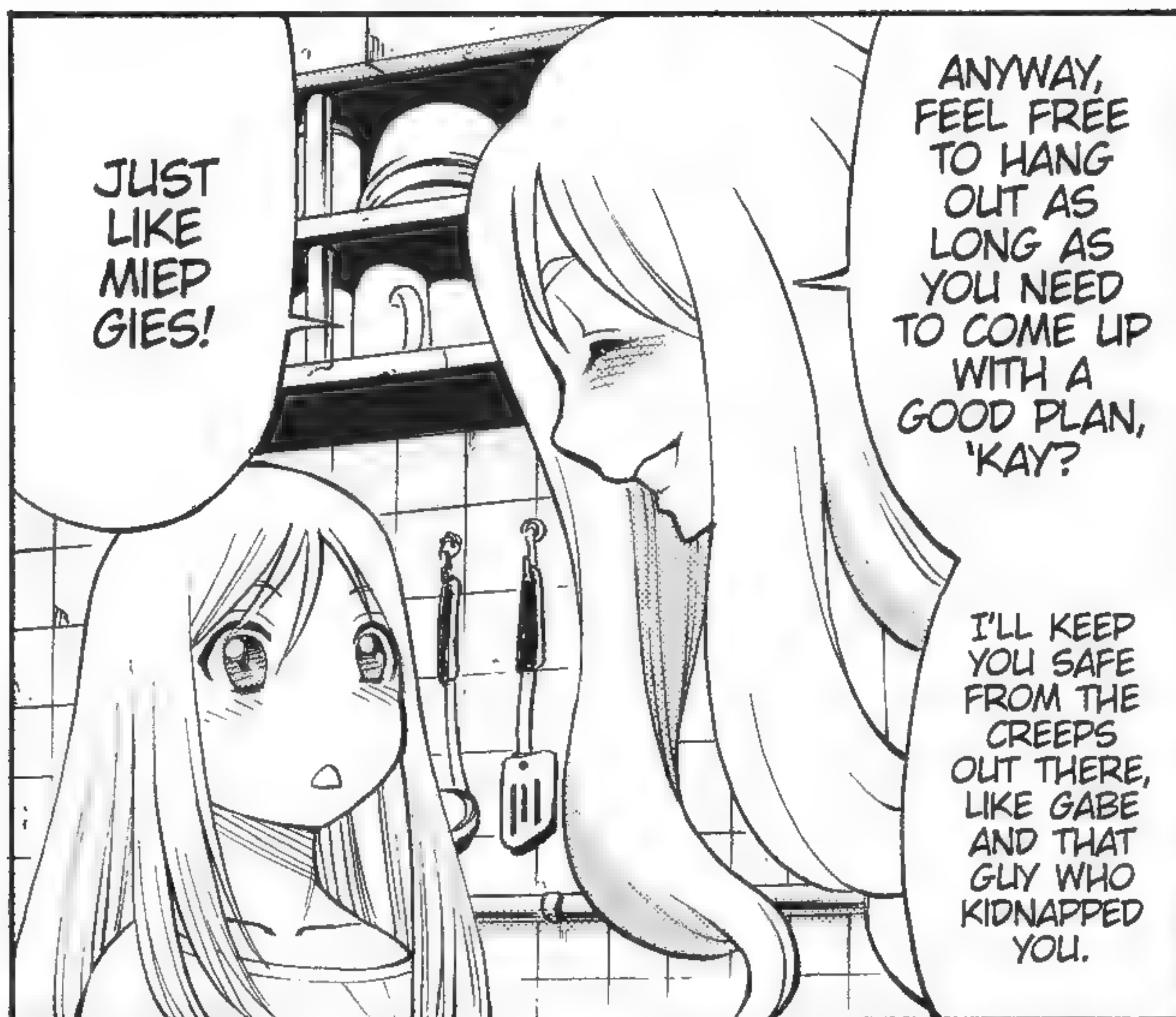
I MUST ASSUME THAT AS OF THE MOMENT I ESCAPED FROM THE LABORATORY, ANY AND ALL TELEPHONE AND CELL PHONE COMMUNICATIONS LEAVING THIS COUNTRY ARE BEING MONITORED FOR PRECISELY SUCH A CALL.

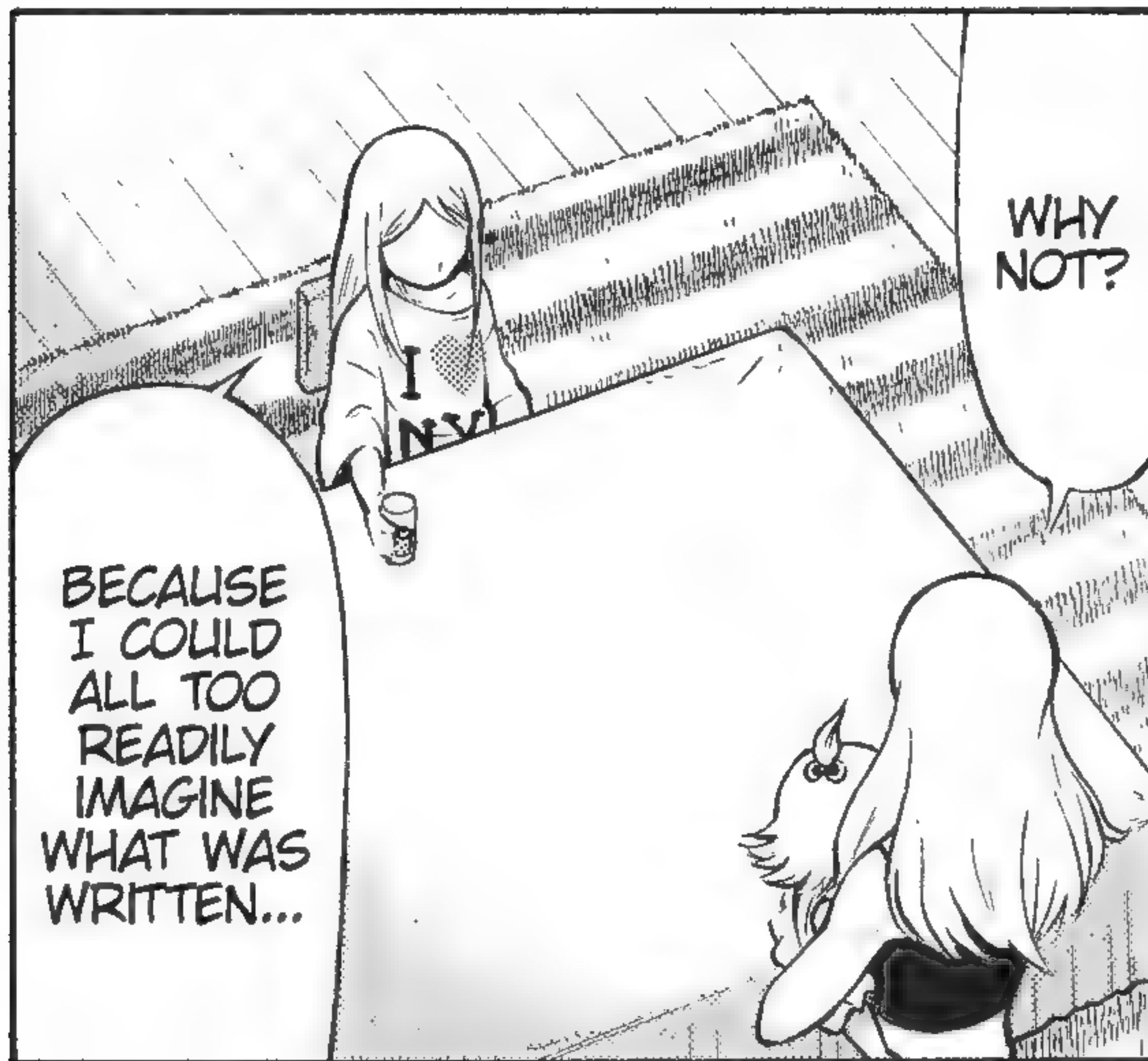
IT IS NOT THAT SIMPLE.

I'LL LET YOU USE MY PHONE. GO AND GIVE YOUR PEOPLE OR WHATEVER A CALL, AND TELL 'EM THAT'S AN EVIL TWIN THEY'RE TAKIN' ORDERS FROM!

THEN WHAT'RE YOU JUST SITTING AROUND FOR?! ISN'T THIS, LIKE, A HUGE, GLOBALLY IMPORTANT PROBLEM?!

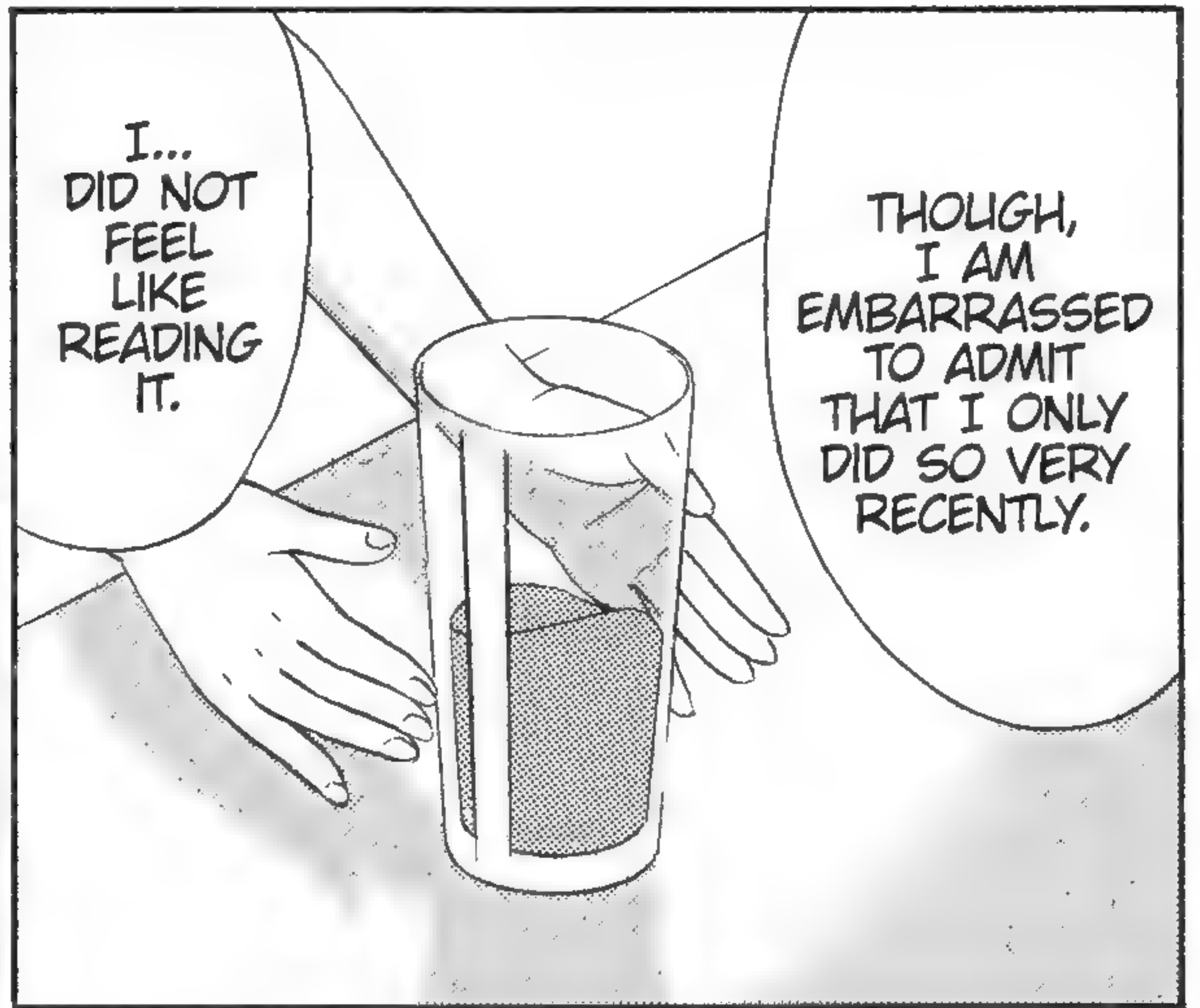






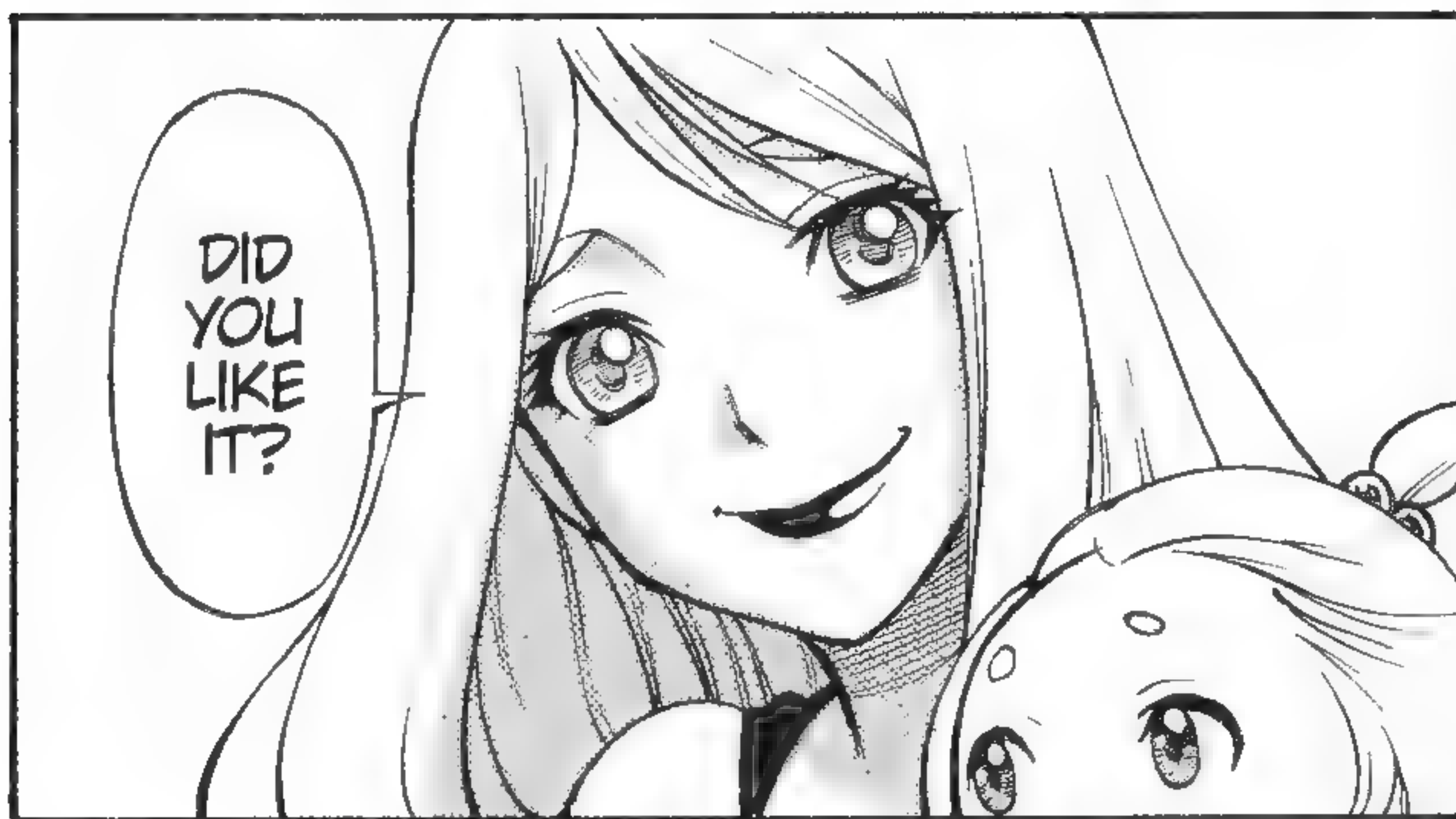
BECAUSE
I COULD
ALL TOO
READILY
IMAGINE
WHAT WAS
WRITTEN...

WHY
NOT?

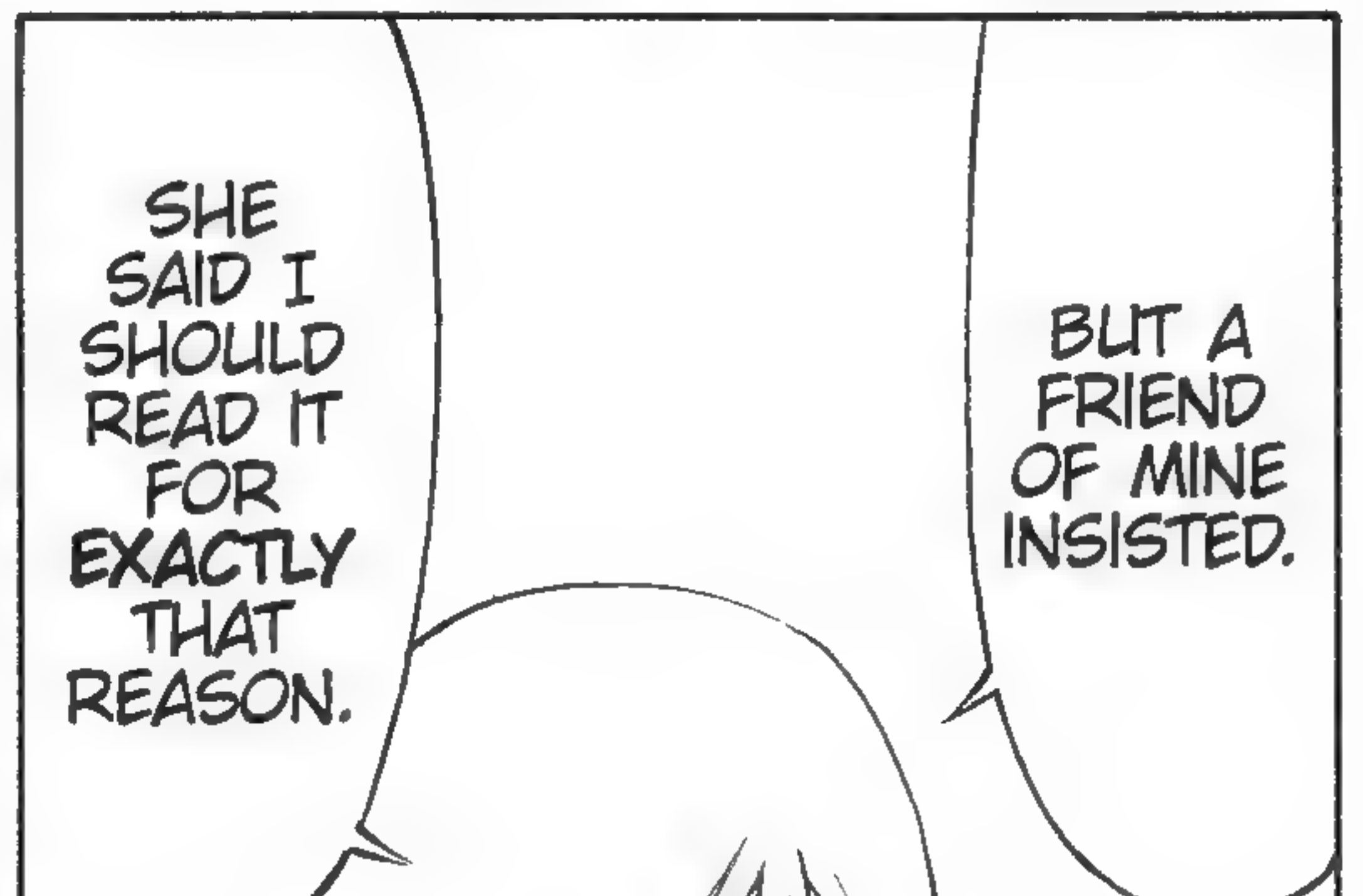


I...
DID NOT
FEEL
LIKE
READING
IT.

THOUGH,
I AM
EMBARRASSED
TO ADMIT
THAT I ONLY
DID SO VERY
RECENTLY.



DID
YOU
LIKE
IT?



SHE
SAID I
SHOULD
READ IT
FOR
EXACTLY
THAT
REASON.

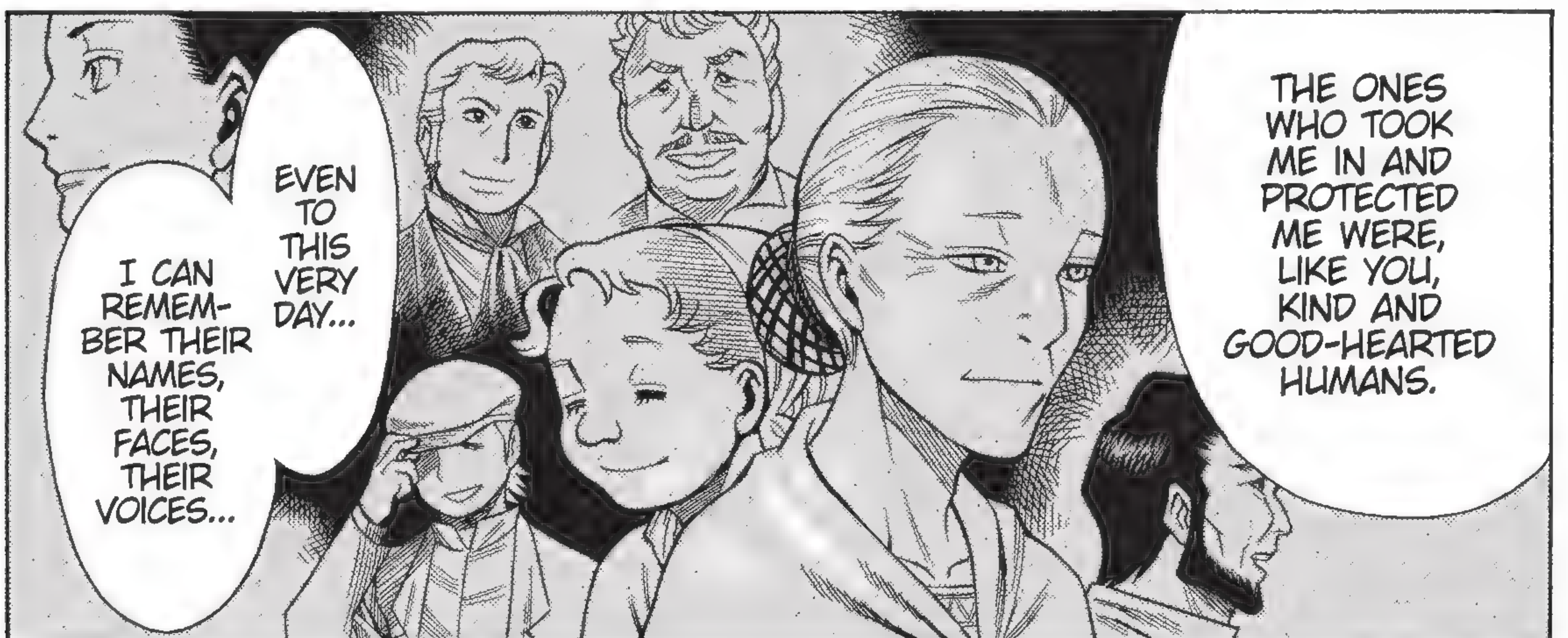
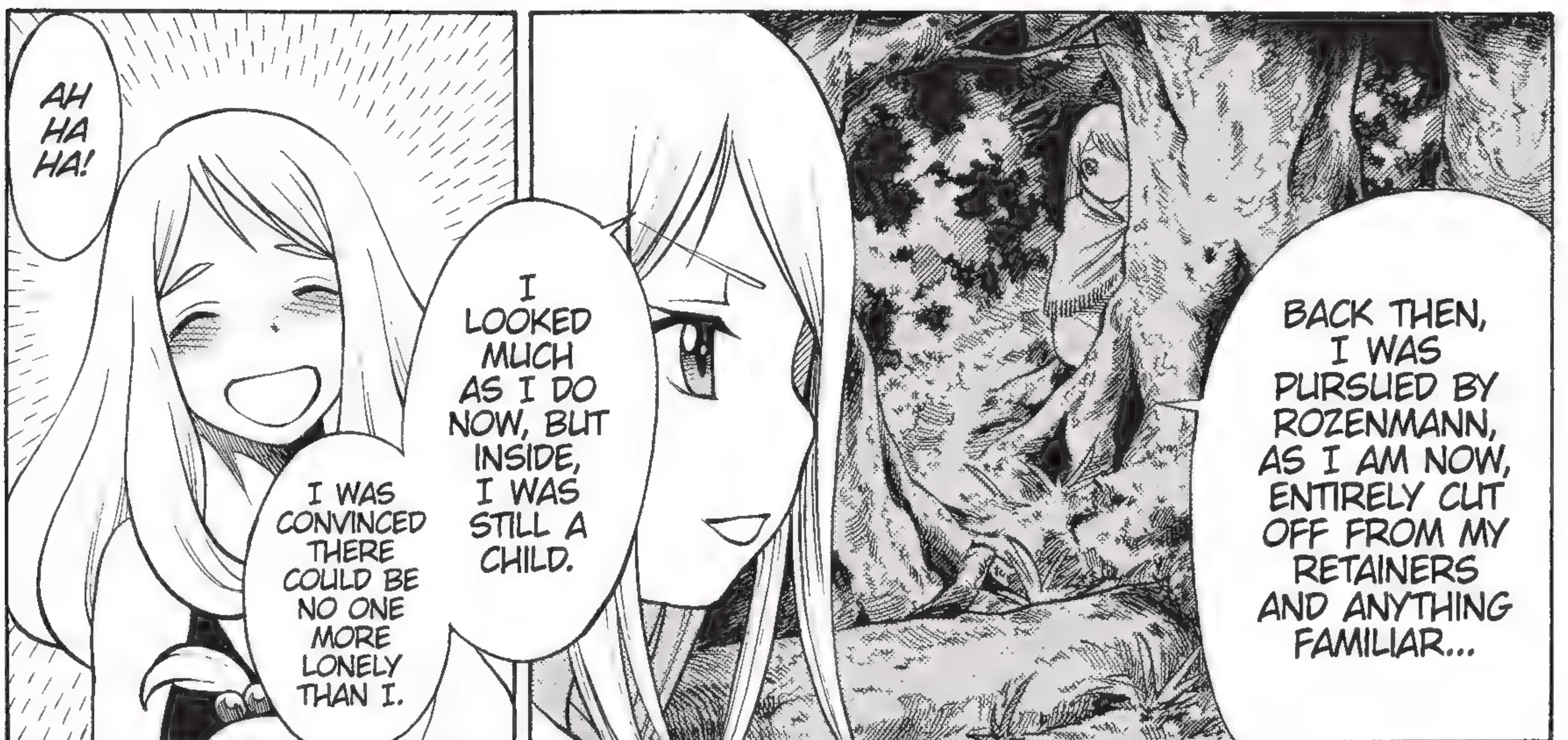
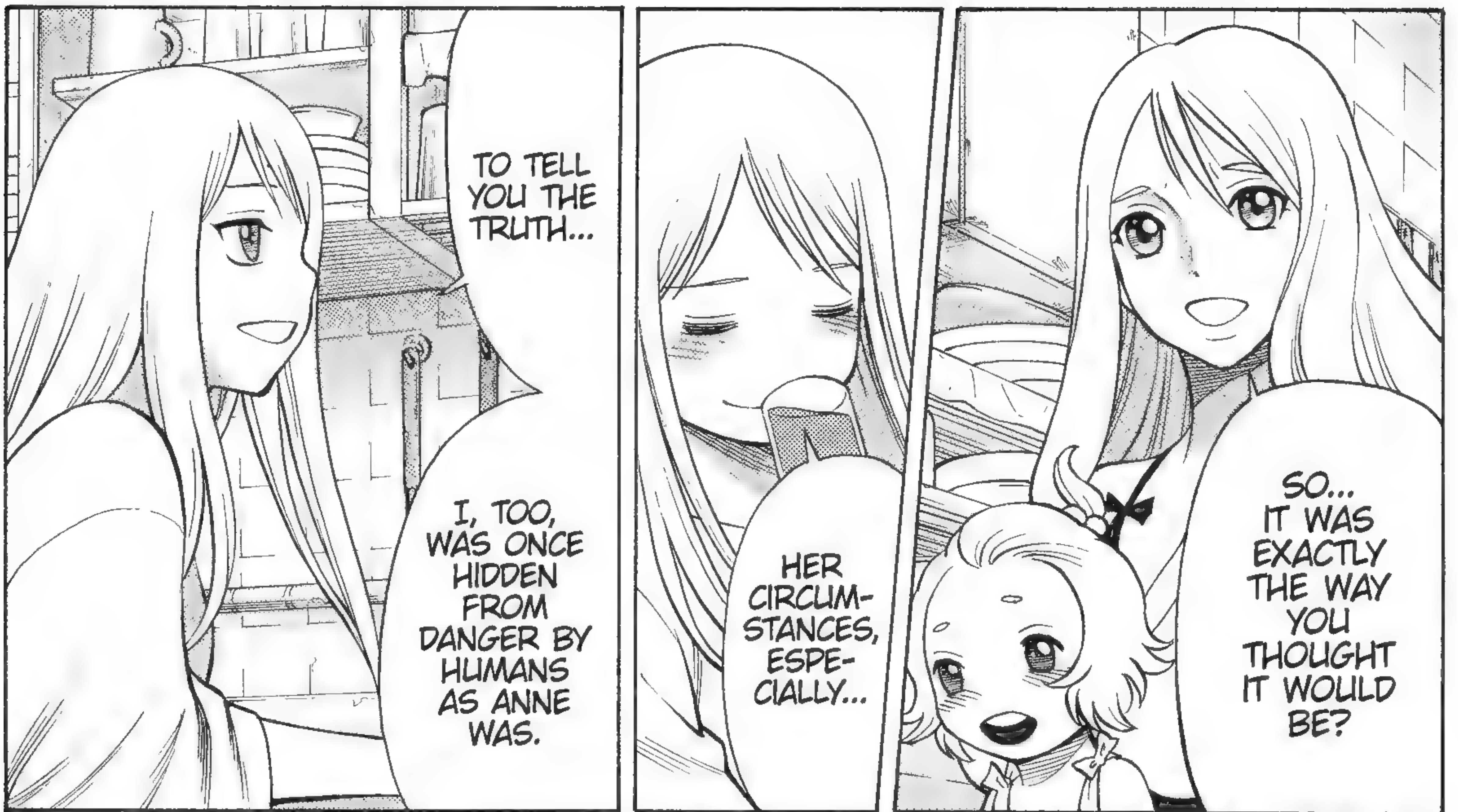
BUT A
FRIEND
OF MINE
INSISTED.



IT...
REACHED
INTO MY
HEART
AND
TWISTED.

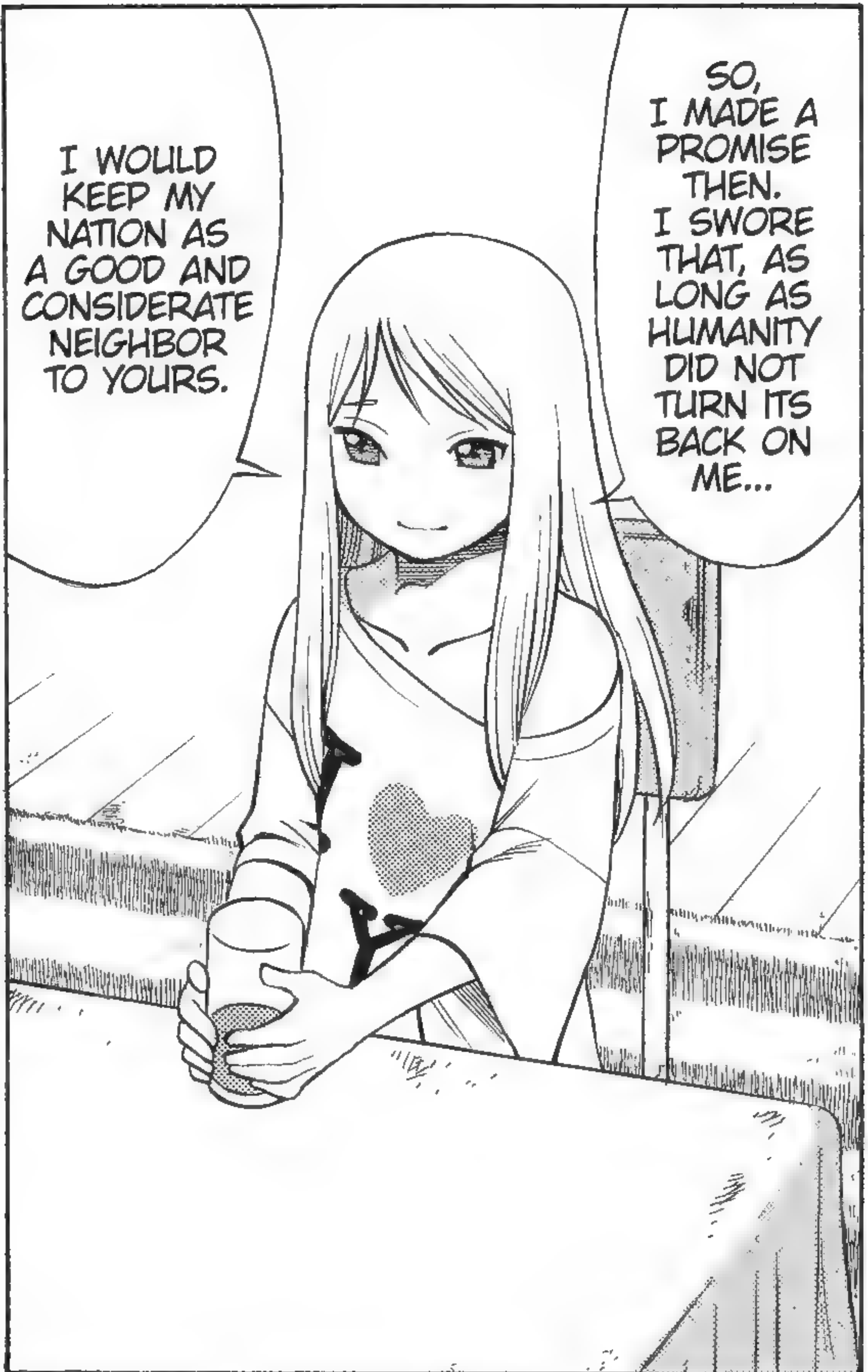
I KNEW
WELL--
PAINFULLY
WELL--
EXACTLY
WHAT ANNE
HAD GONE
THROUGH.





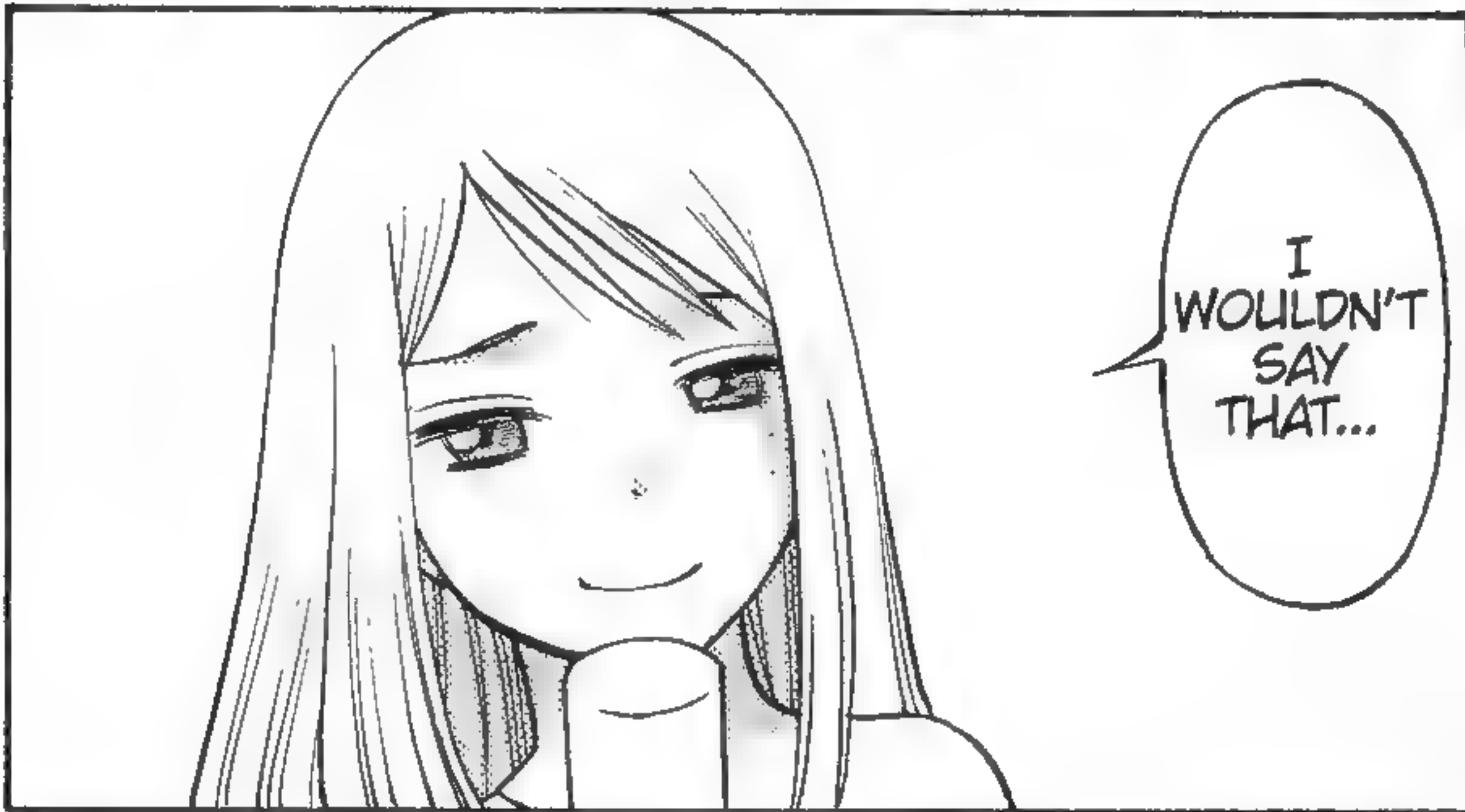


I BET
YOU
WERE A
REALLY
GOOD
QUEEN.

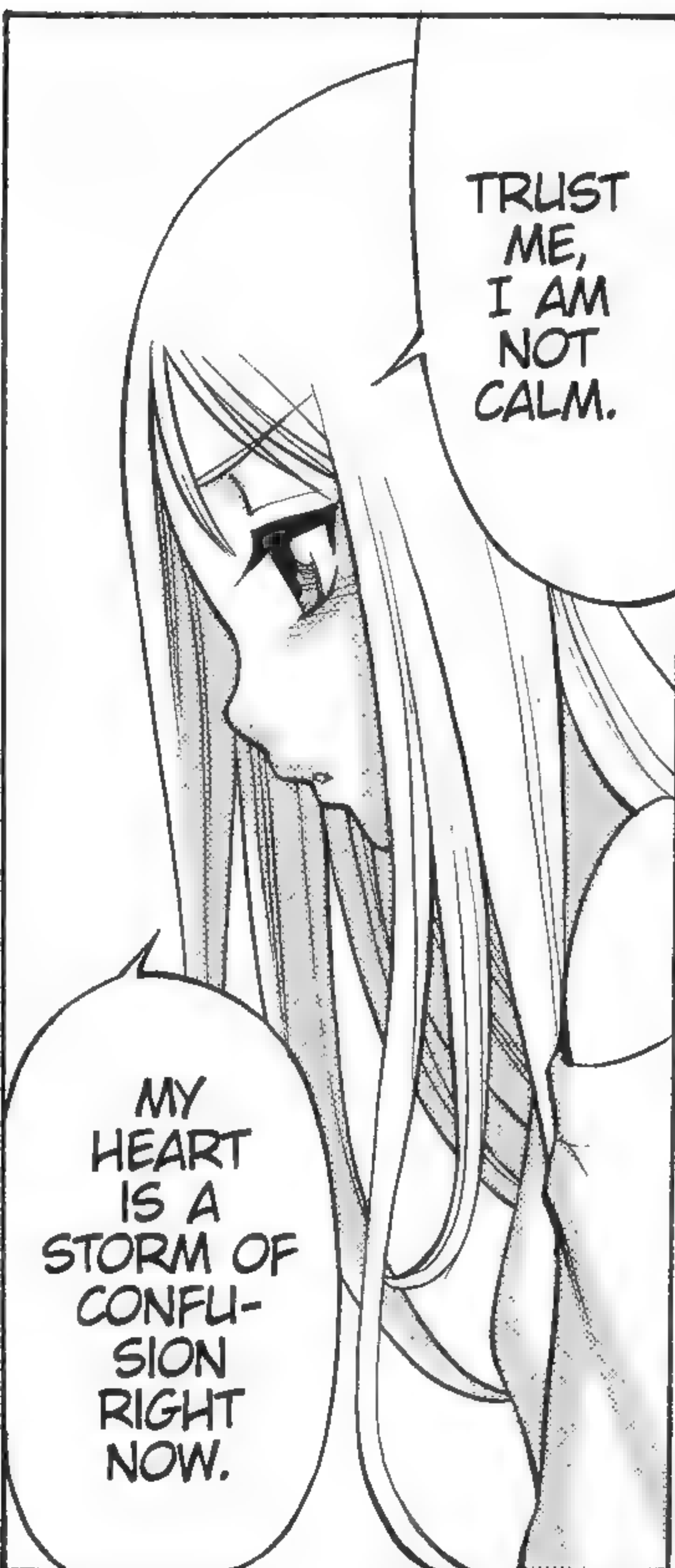


I WOULD
KEEP MY
NATION AS
A GOOD AND
CONSIDERATE
NEIGHBOR
TO YOURS.

SO,
I MADE A
PROMISE
THEN.
I SWORE
THAT, AS
LONG AS
HUMANITY
DID NOT
TURN ITS
BACK ON
ME...

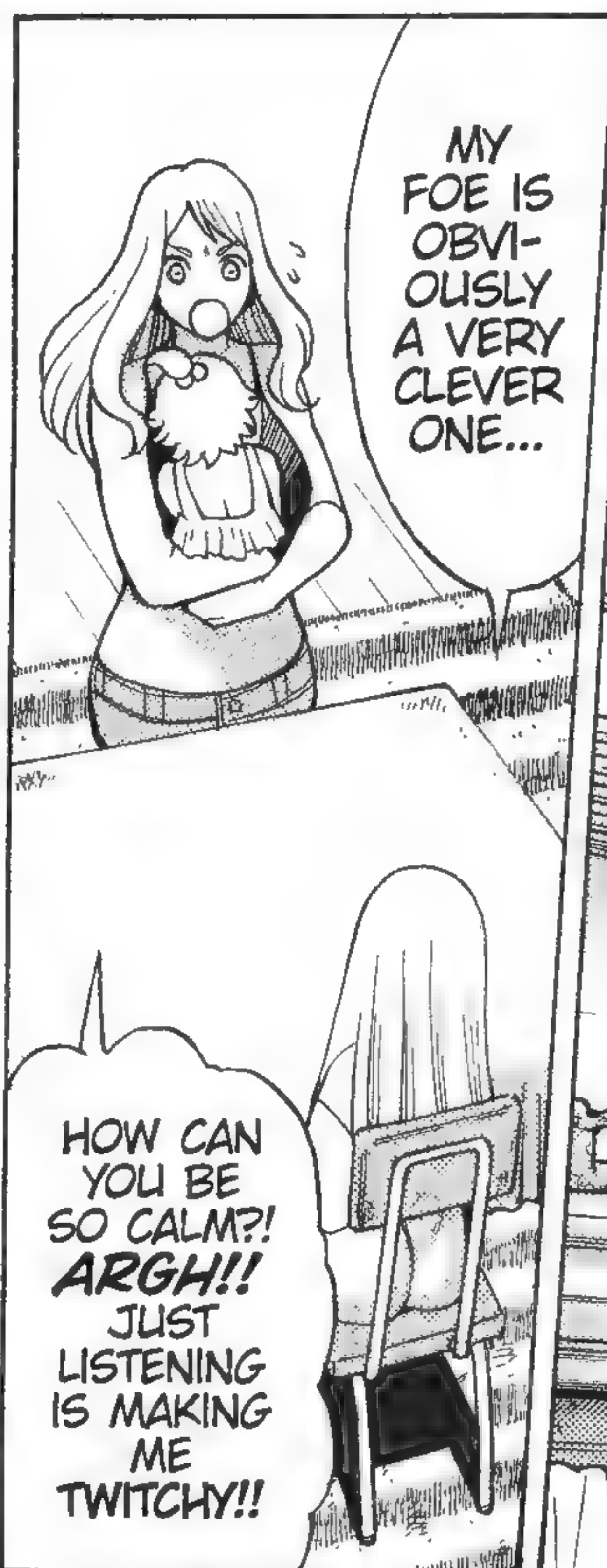


I
WOULDN'T
SAY
THAT...



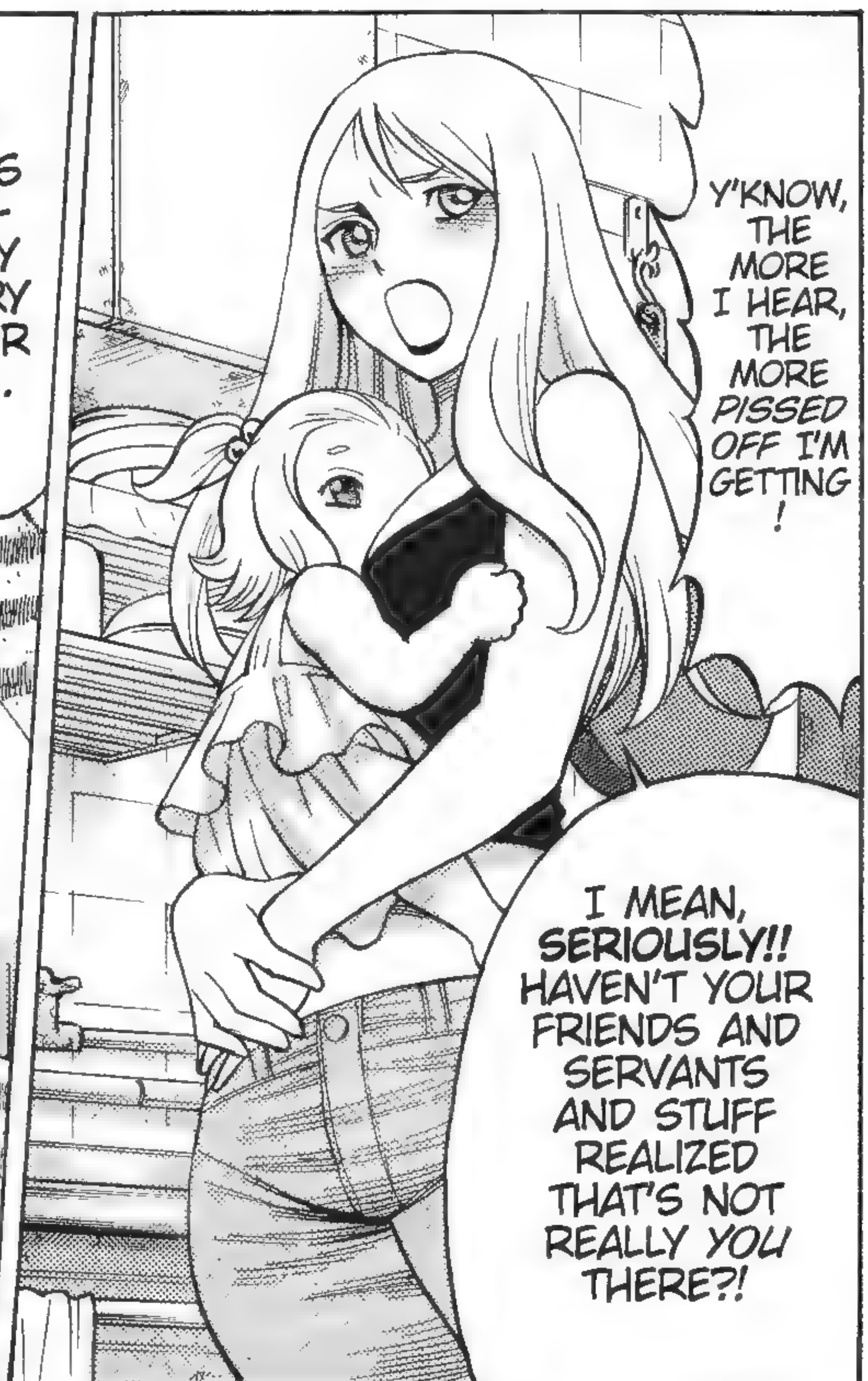
TRUST
ME,
I AM
NOT
CALM.

MY
HEART
IS A
STORM OF
CONFU-
SION
RIGHT
NOW.



MY
FOE IS
OBTI-
OUSLY
A VERY
CLEVER
ONE...

HOW CAN
YOU BE
SO CALM?!
ARGH!!
JUST
LISTENING
IS MAKING
ME
TWITCHY!!



Y'KNOW,
THE
MORE
I HEAR,
THE
MORE
PISSSED
OFF I'M
GETTING
!

I MEAN,
SERIOUSLY!!
HAVEN'T YOUR
FRIENDS AND
SERVANTS
AND STUFF
REALIZED
THAT'S NOT
REALLY YOU
THERE?!

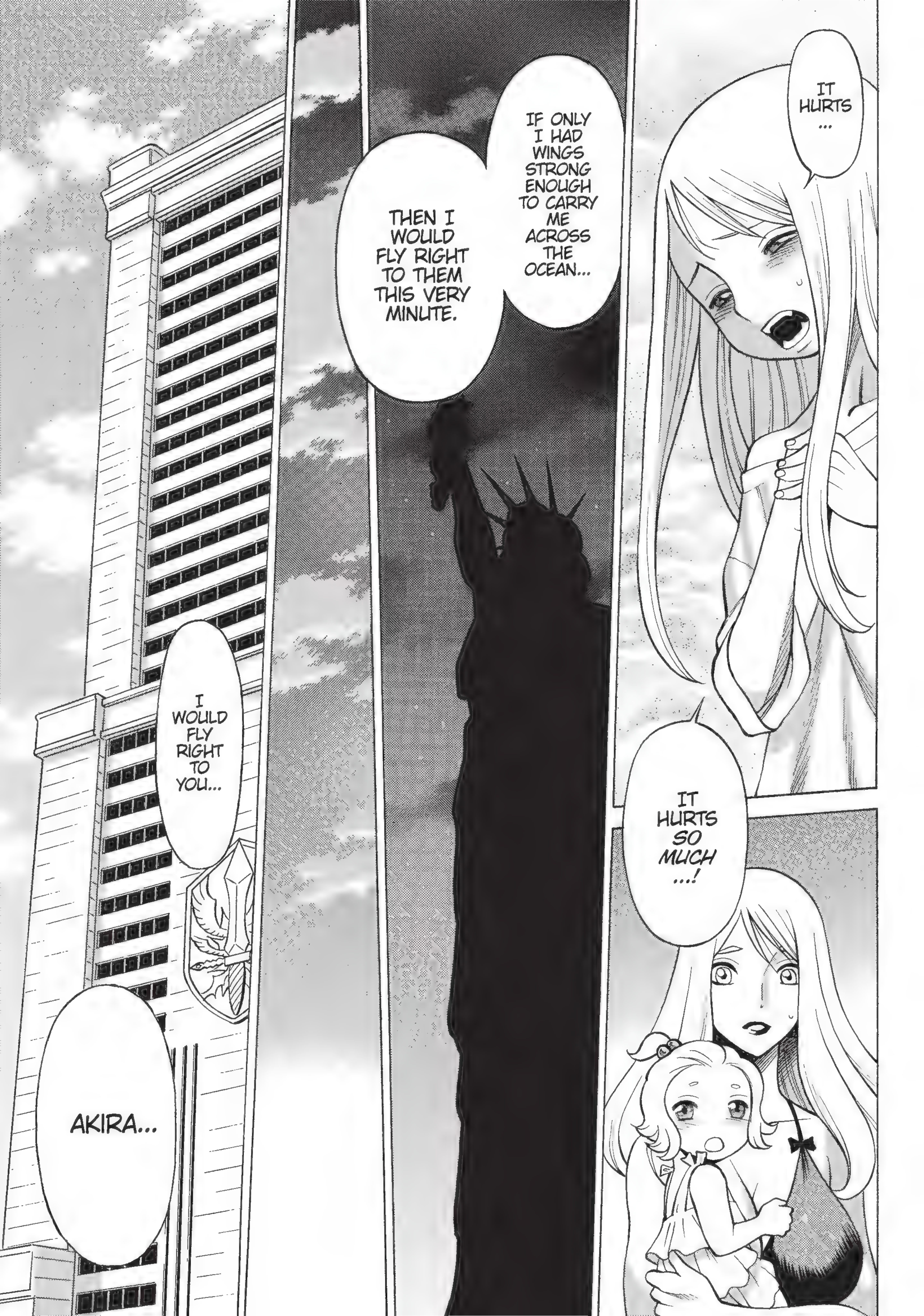


RIGHT NOW,
EVERYONE
PRECIOUS
TO ME IS
STANDING
BY HER
SIDE...

NOT EVEN
ONCE
DOUBTING
THAT SHE
IS ME.

THEY
ARE
SPEAKING
TO HER
THE
WORDS
THEY
MEAN
FOR
ME...

GIVING
TO HER
THE SAME
LOYALTY,
AND...
AND LOVE
THAT THEY
MEAN FOR
ME...



IT
HURTS
...

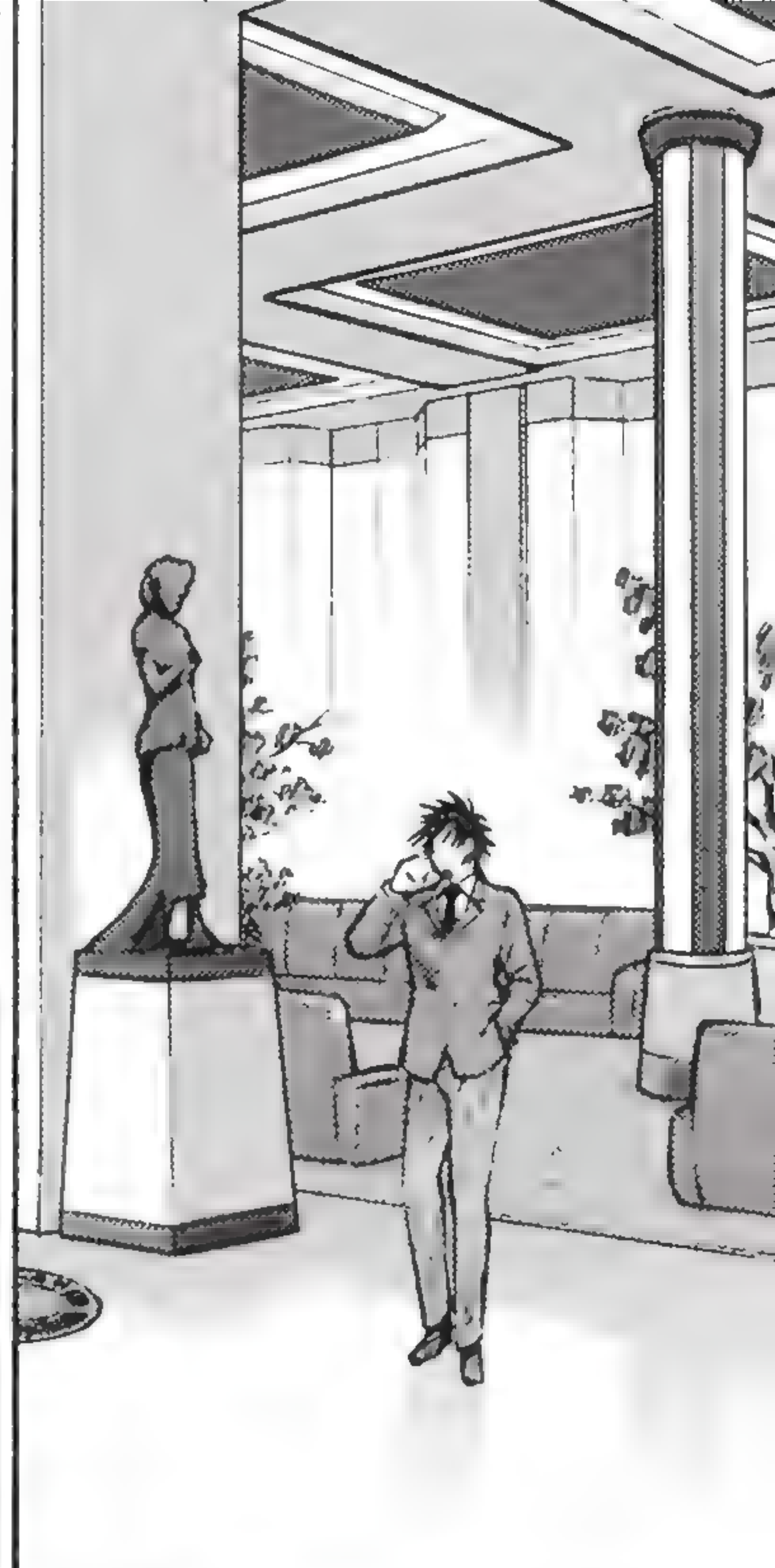
IF ONLY
I HAD
WINGS
STRONG
ENOUGH
TO CARRY
ME
ACROSS
THE
OCEAN...

THEN I
WOULD
FLY RIGHT
TO THEM
THIS VERY
MINUTE.

I
WOULD
FLY
RIGHT
TO
YOU...

IT
HURTS
SO
MUCH
....!

AKIRA...





YOU PUT
A STOP
TO THAT
ONE.

YEAH...
HE WENT
AFTER THOSE
REFUGEES
OF HIS THAT
WE TOOK IN,
RIGHT?

IVANOVIC
CAUSED A
BIG ENOUGH
RUCKUS
THAT LI
MANAGED TO
SLIP IN AND
ATTACK A
MAINLAND
FACILITY.



WHAT
?!

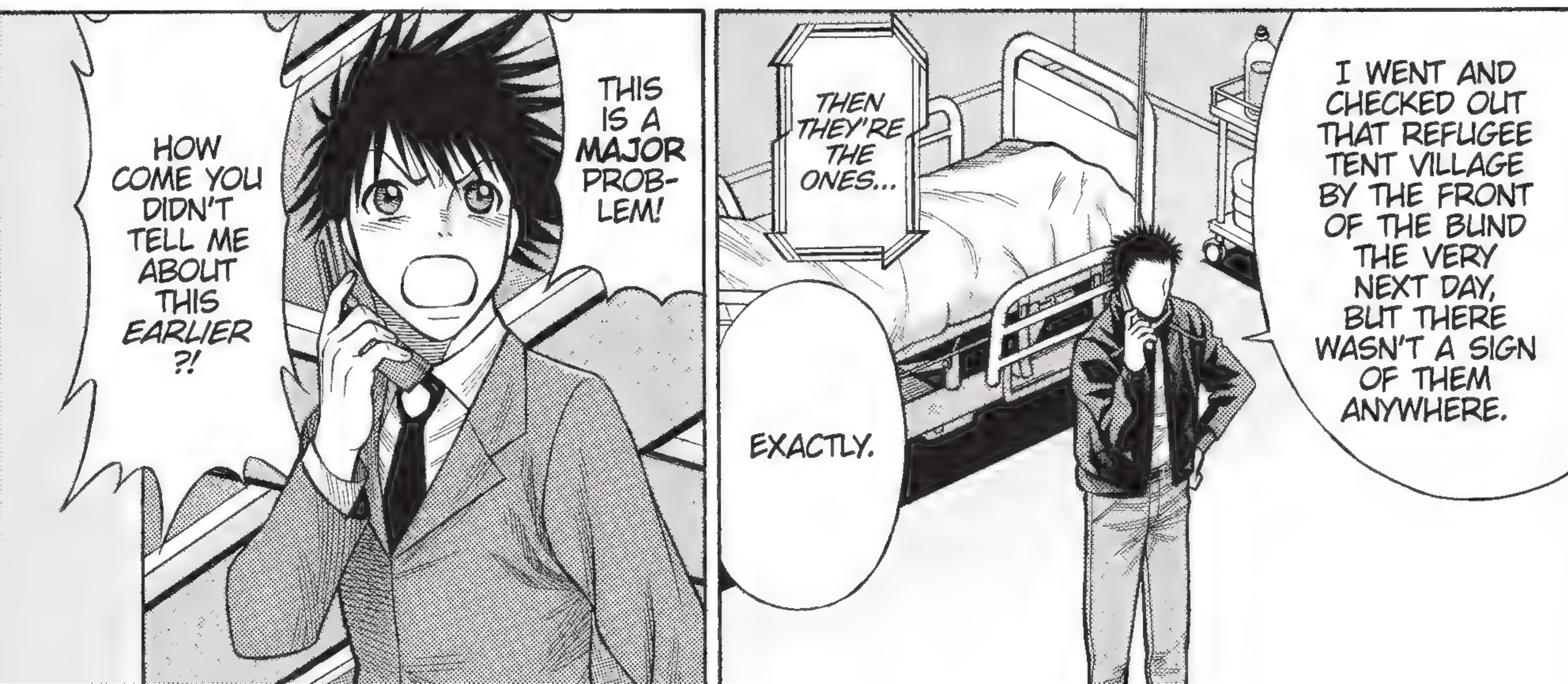
ONE OF THE
REFUGEES
SLIPPED AWAY
WHILE I WAS
DEALING
WITH THE
SOLDIERS.

MOST
OF IT,
ANYWAY.
THERE
WAS A
GIRL WHO
ESCAPED.



THE
LOT OF
THEM
VAN-
ISHED.

ONE GIRL
BY HERSELF
AIN'T A BIG
THREAT.
PROBLEM IS,
SHE WENT
WITH A
GROUP OF
WHAT LOOKED
LIKE EVERYDAY
HUMANS.



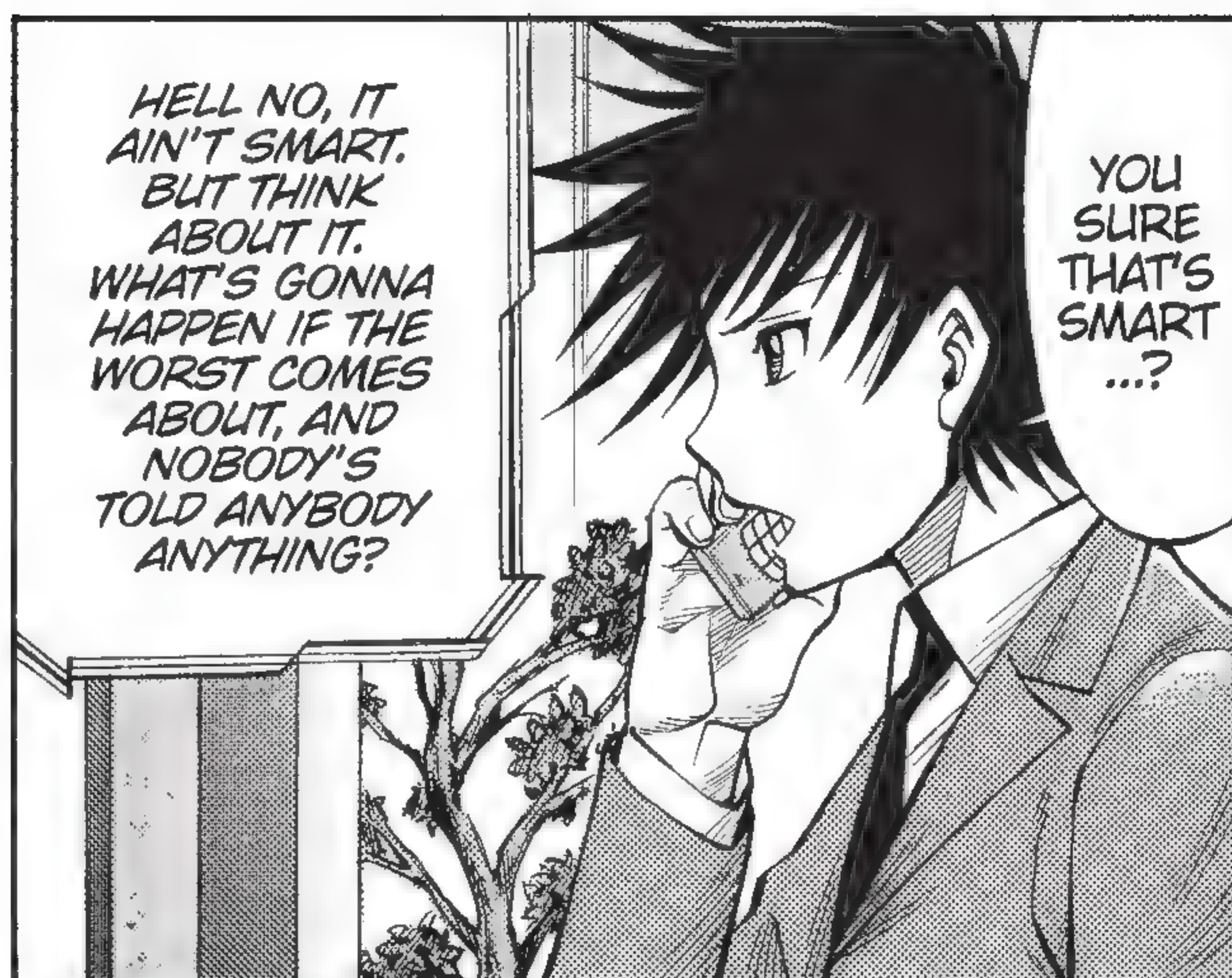
HOW
COME YOU
DIDN'T
TELL ME
ABOUT
THIS
EARLIER
?!

THIS
IS A
MAJOR
PROB-
LEM!

THEN
THEY'RE
THE
ONES...

EXACTLY.

I WENT AND
CHECKED OUT
THAT REFUGEE
TENT VILLAGE
BY THE FRONT
OF THE BLIND
THE VERY
NEXT DAY,
BUT THERE
WASN'T A SIGN
OF THEM
ANYWHERE.



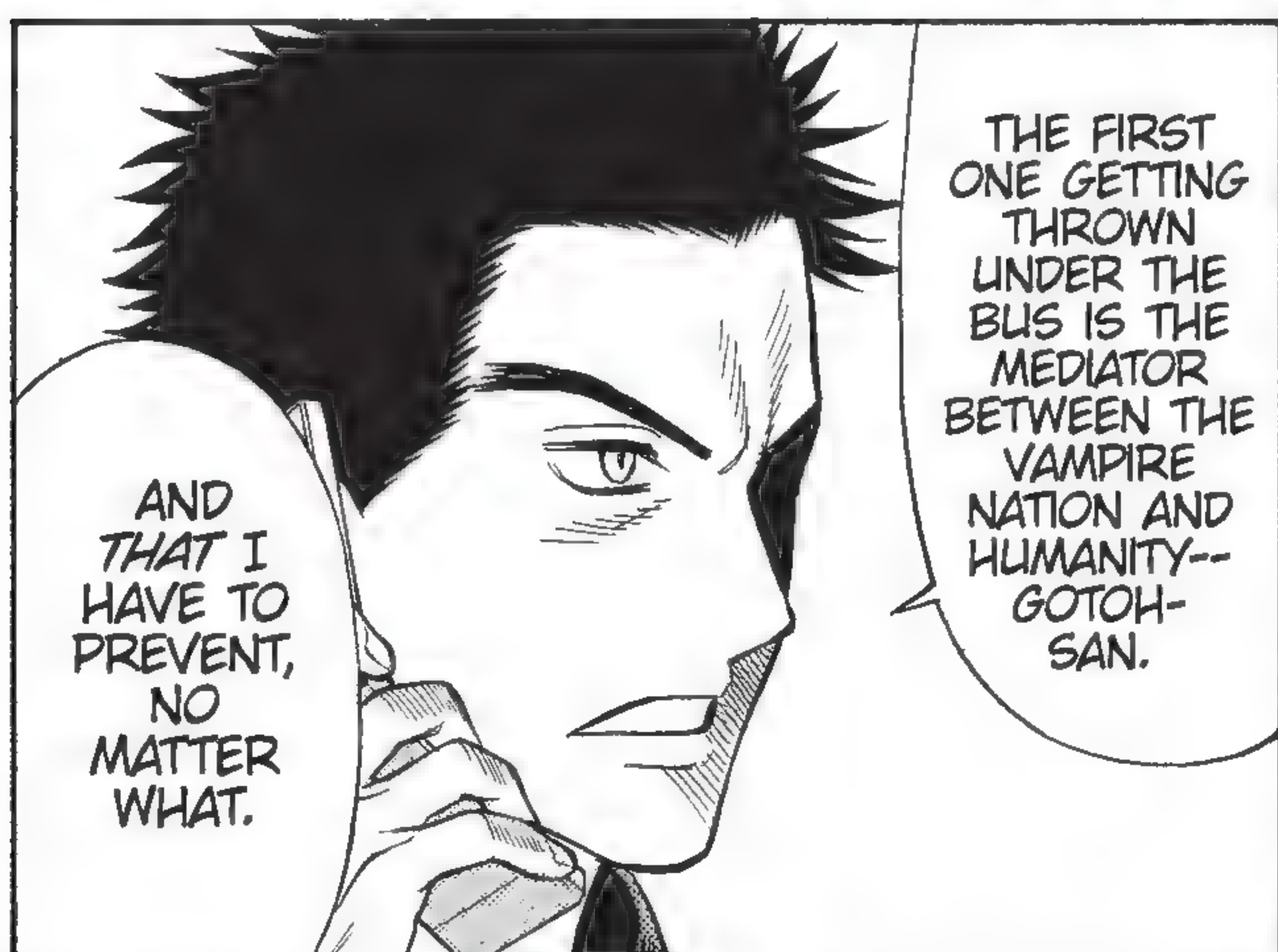
HELL NO, IT
AIN'T SMART.
BUT THINK
ABOUT IT.
WHAT'S GONNA
HAPPEN IF THE
WORST COMES
ABOUT, AND
NOBODY'S
TOLD ANYBODY
ANYTHING?

YOU
SURE
THAT'S
SMART
...?



HEY,
DON'T BITE
MY HEAD
OFF. THE
HIGHER-
UPS PUT A
GAG ORDER
ON THIS
ONE RIGHT
DAMN
QUICK.

IT'S BEING
TREATED AS
AN ULTRA,
TOP SECRET
SITUATION.
I'M TELLING
YOU THIS
TOTALLY ON
MY OWN
PERSONAL
DISCRETION.



AND
THAT I
HAVE TO
PREVENT,
NO
MATTER
WHAT.

THE FIRST
ONE GETTING
THROWN
UNDER THE
BUS IS THE
MEDIATOR
BETWEEN THE
VAMPIRE
NATION AND
HUMANITY--
GOTOH-
SAN.



HEY,
LISTEN AND
REMEMBER
THIS, MY
YOUNG
PADAWAN
...

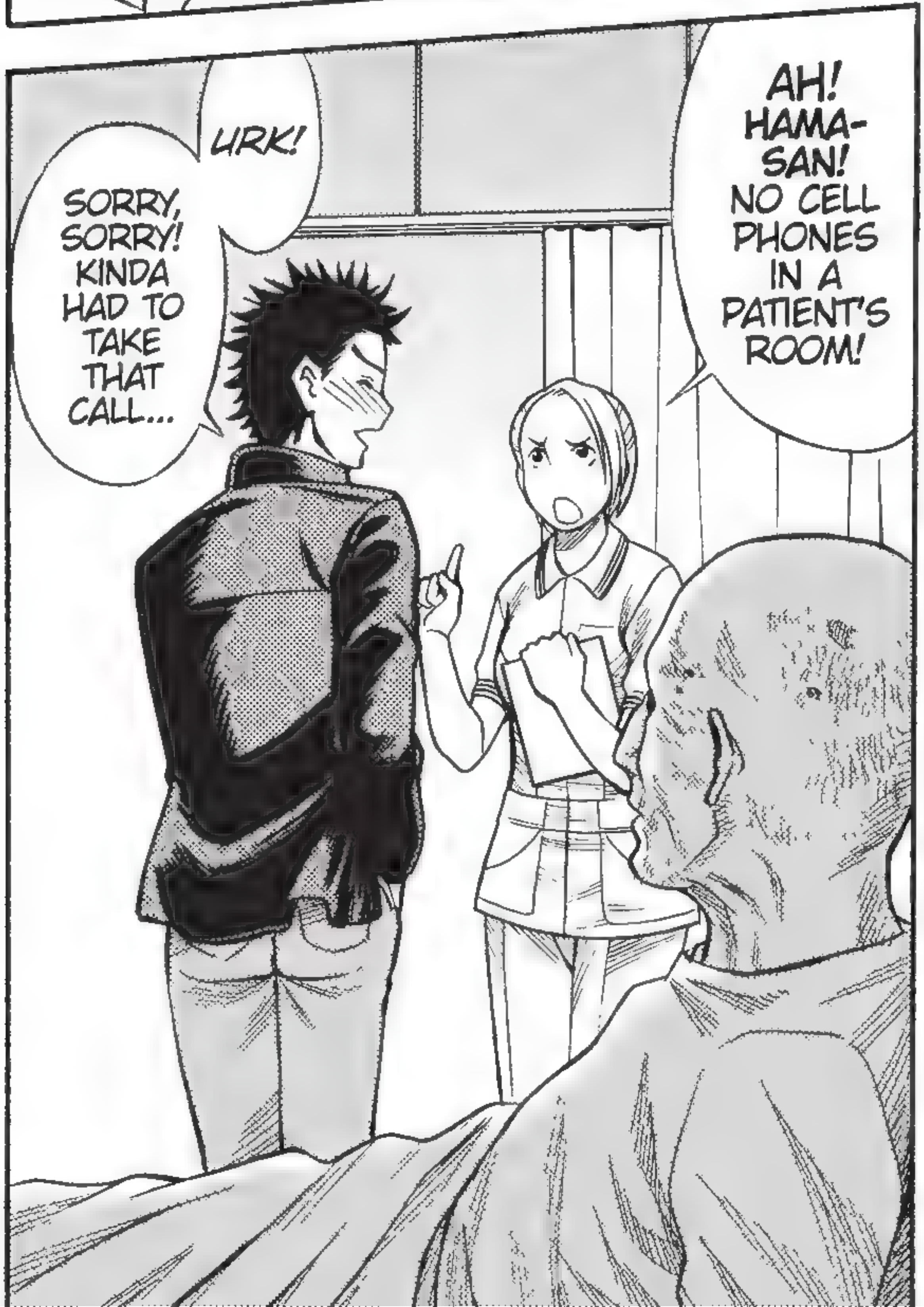
A MAN
WILL TAKE
ON HELL
ITSELF,
UNARMED
AND ALONE,
ALL FOR
THE SAKE
OF THE
WOMAN HE
LOVES.



SO, YOU'RE
MAKING
SURE THERE'S
BEEN OFFICIAL
CONTACT
BETWEEN THE
TWO OF US
ABOUT THE
PROBLEM
BEFORE
ANY CRISIS,
HUH...?

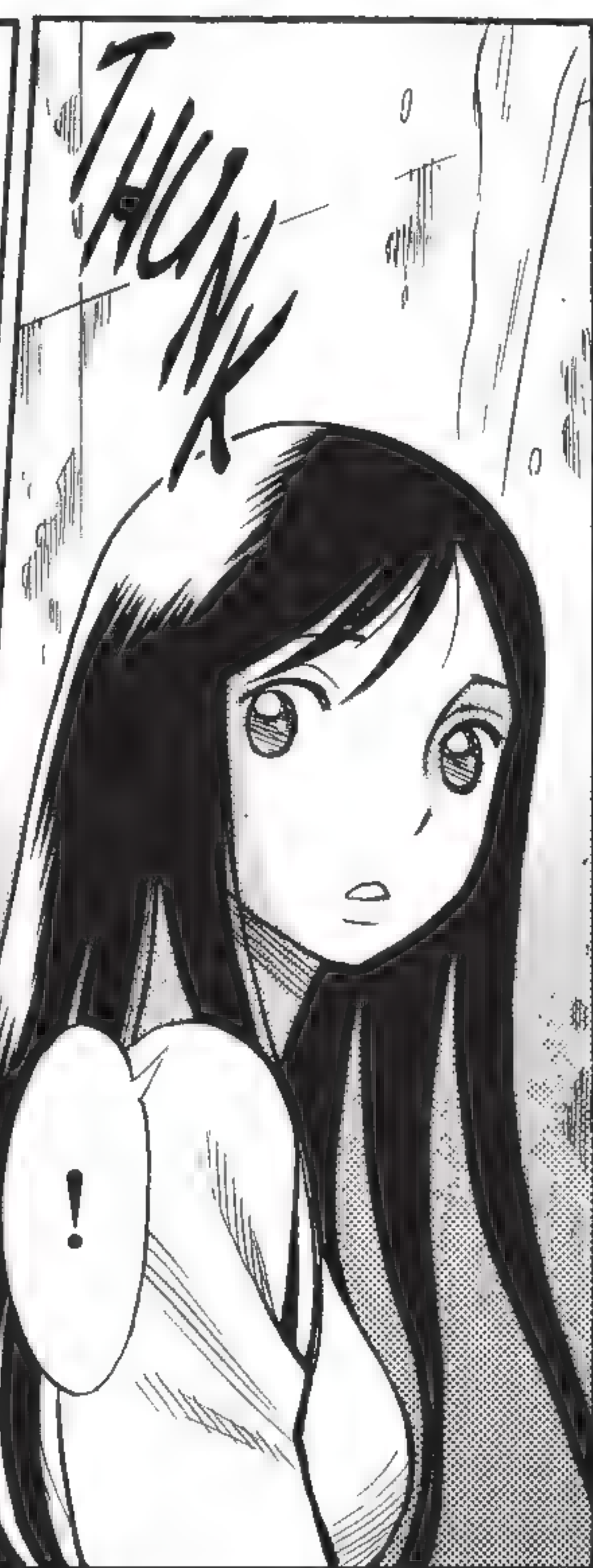
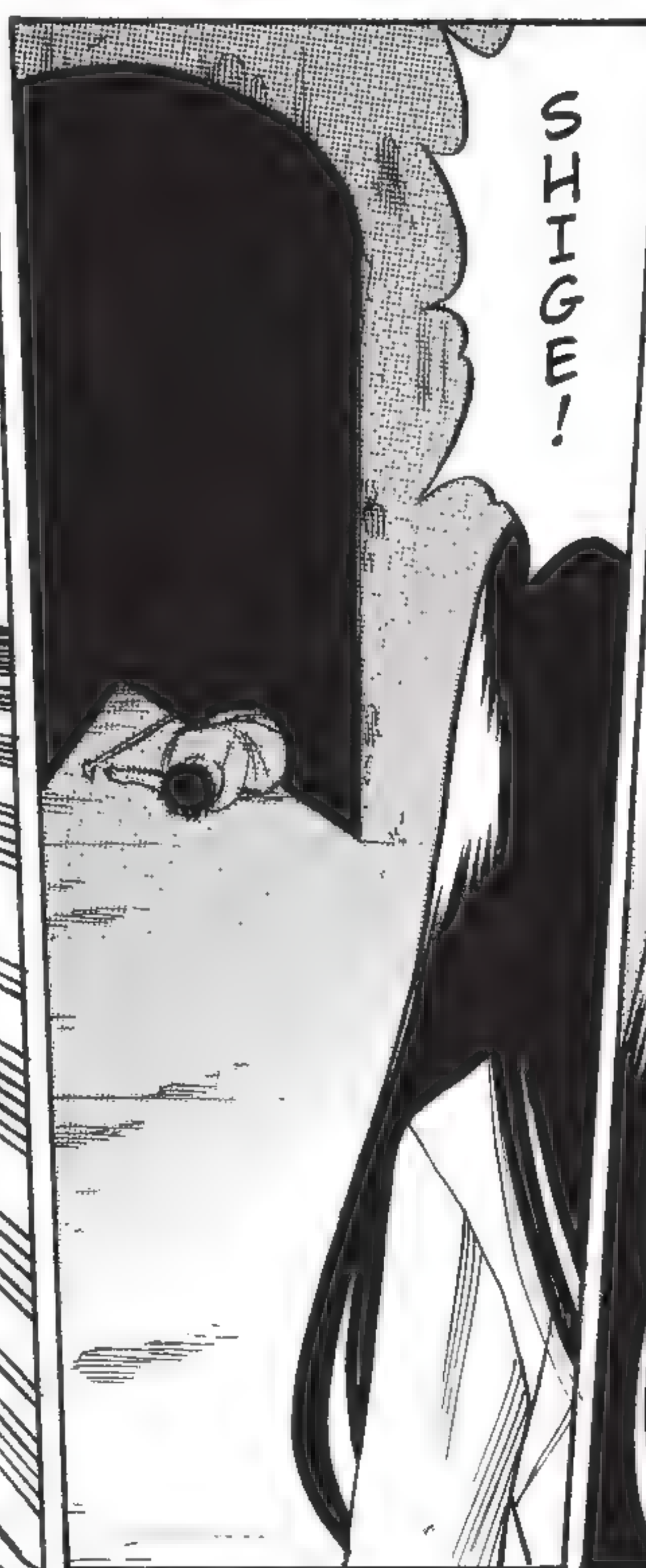
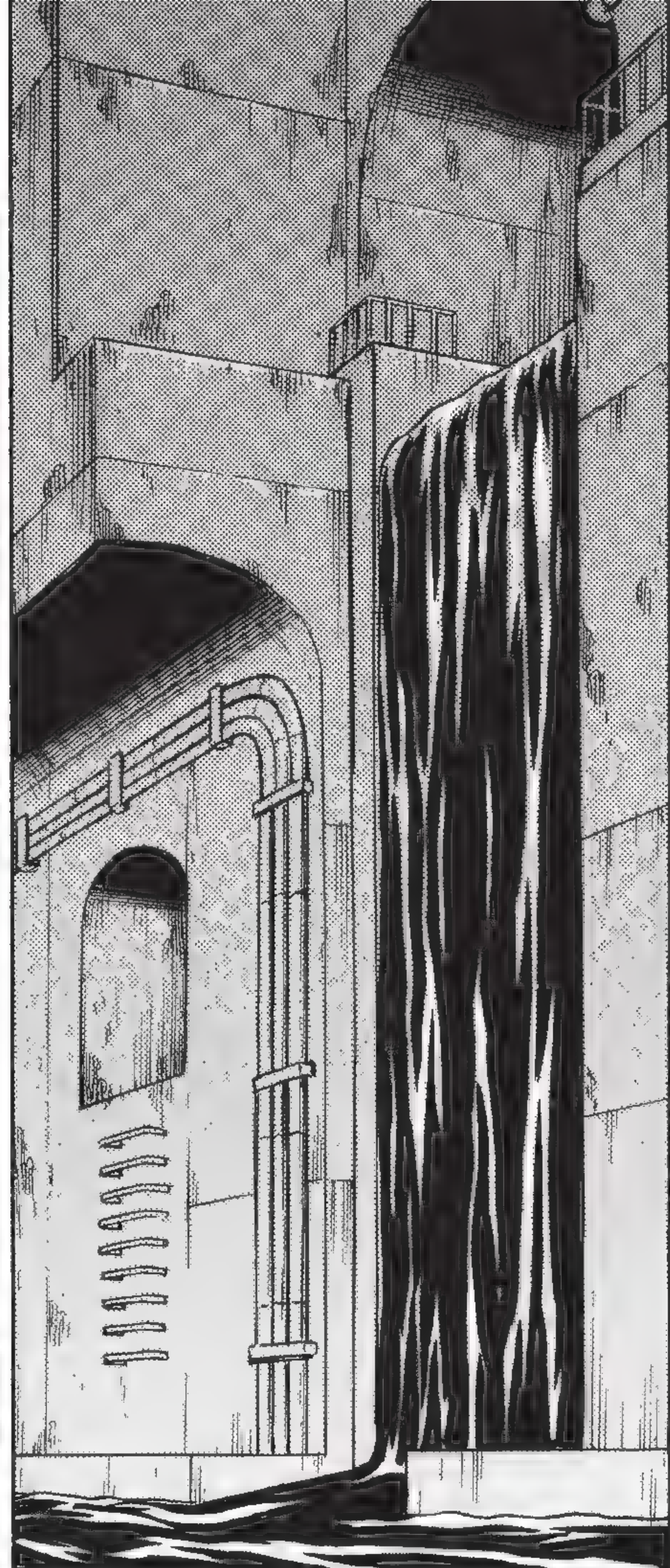
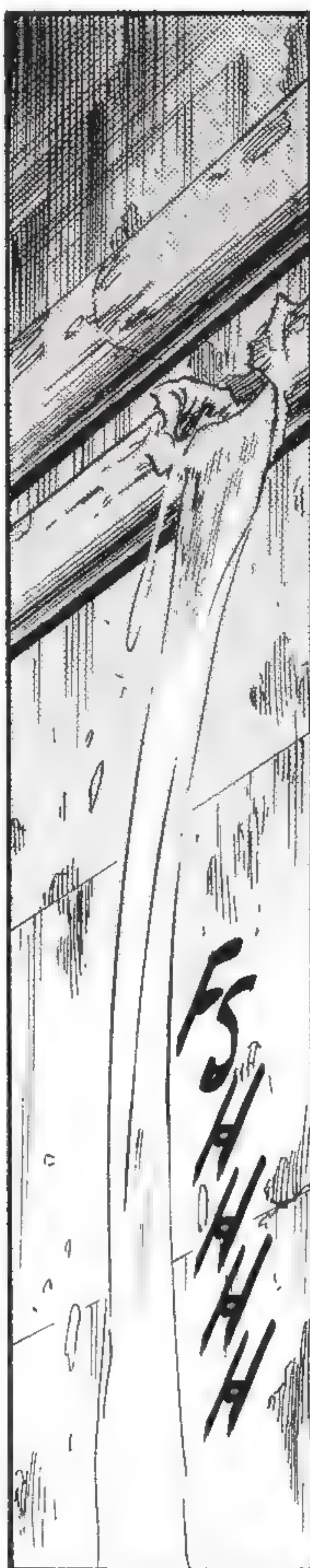
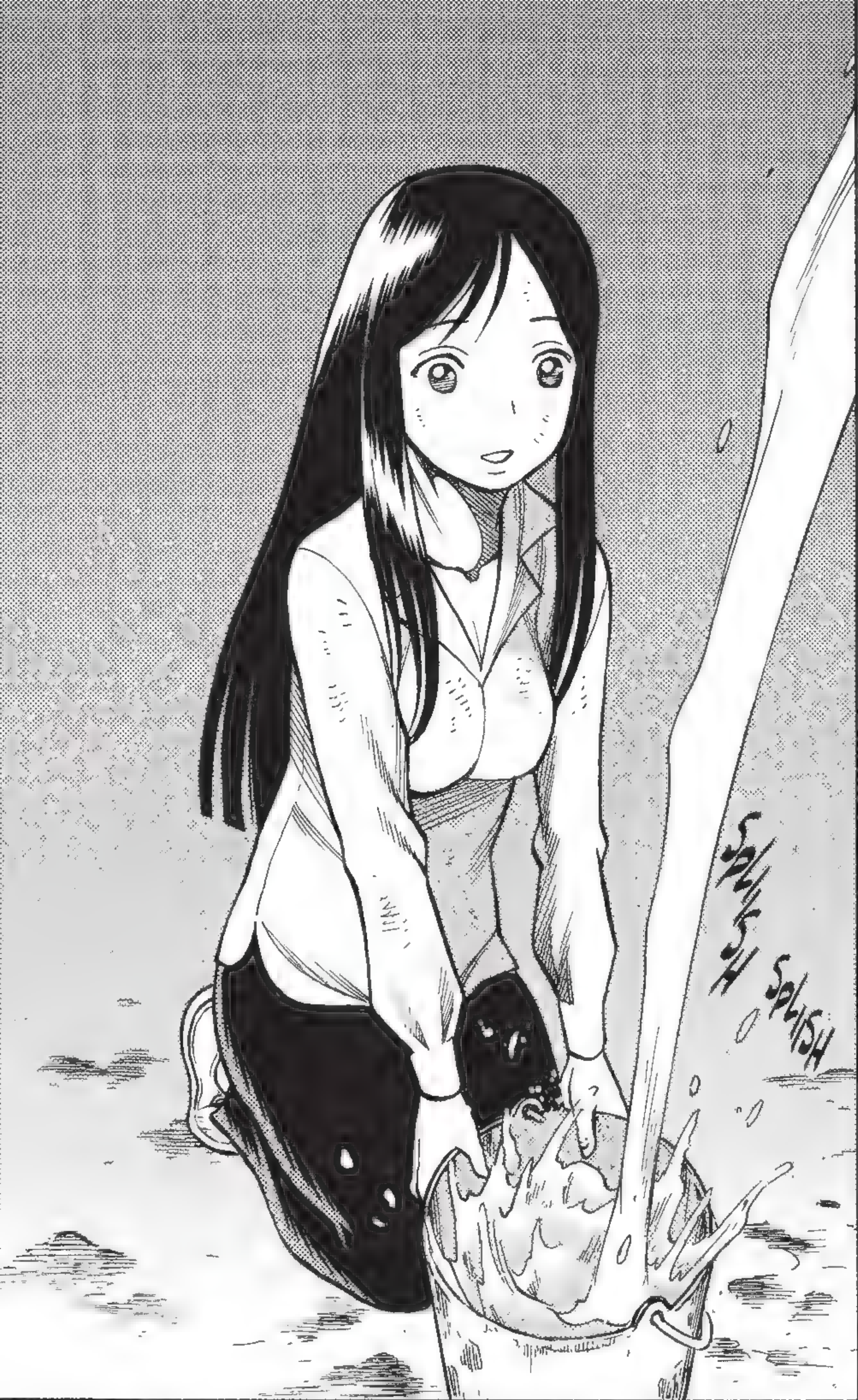
ISN'T
THAT A
LITTLE
CHEAP?













SOME-
THING'S...
IN IT...
AAAAGH!

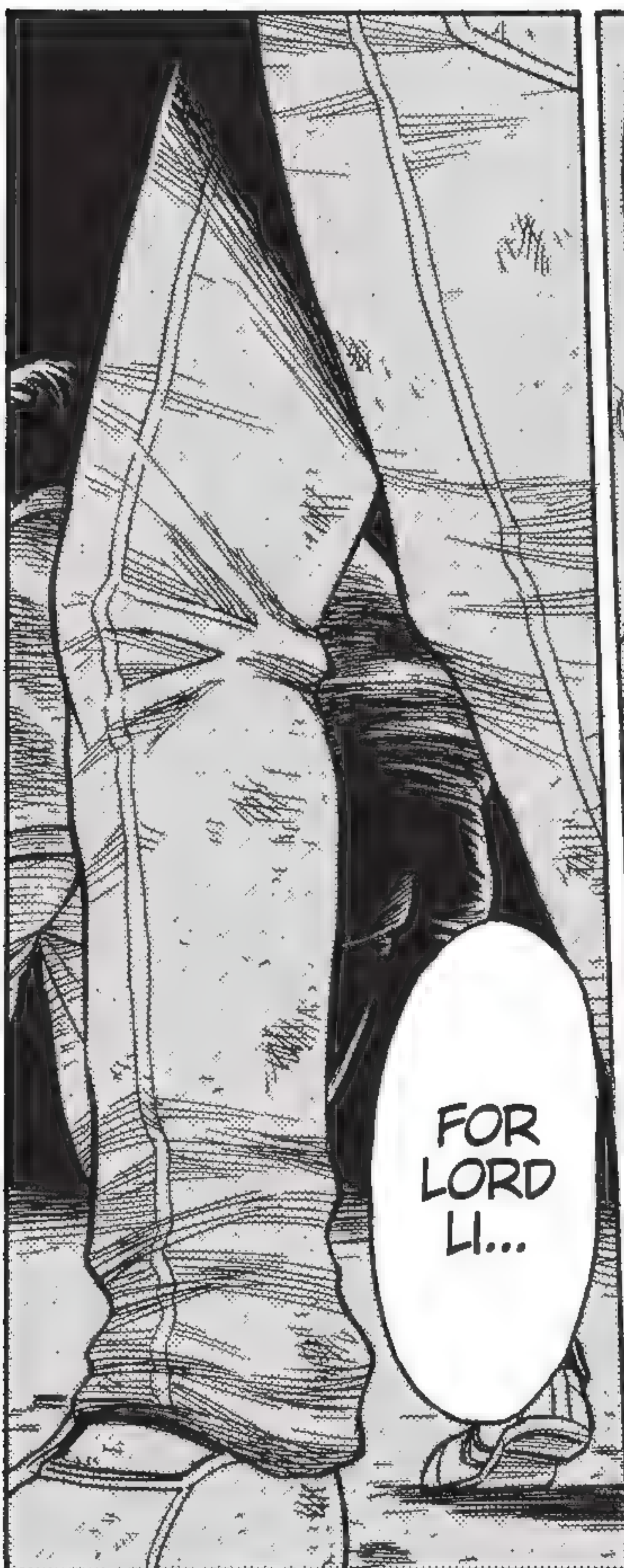
GOD,
IT
HURTS
!



WHAT
THE
HELL IS
HAPPEN-
ING TO
ME?!



MY...
MY
HEAD...
IT
HURTS
...!



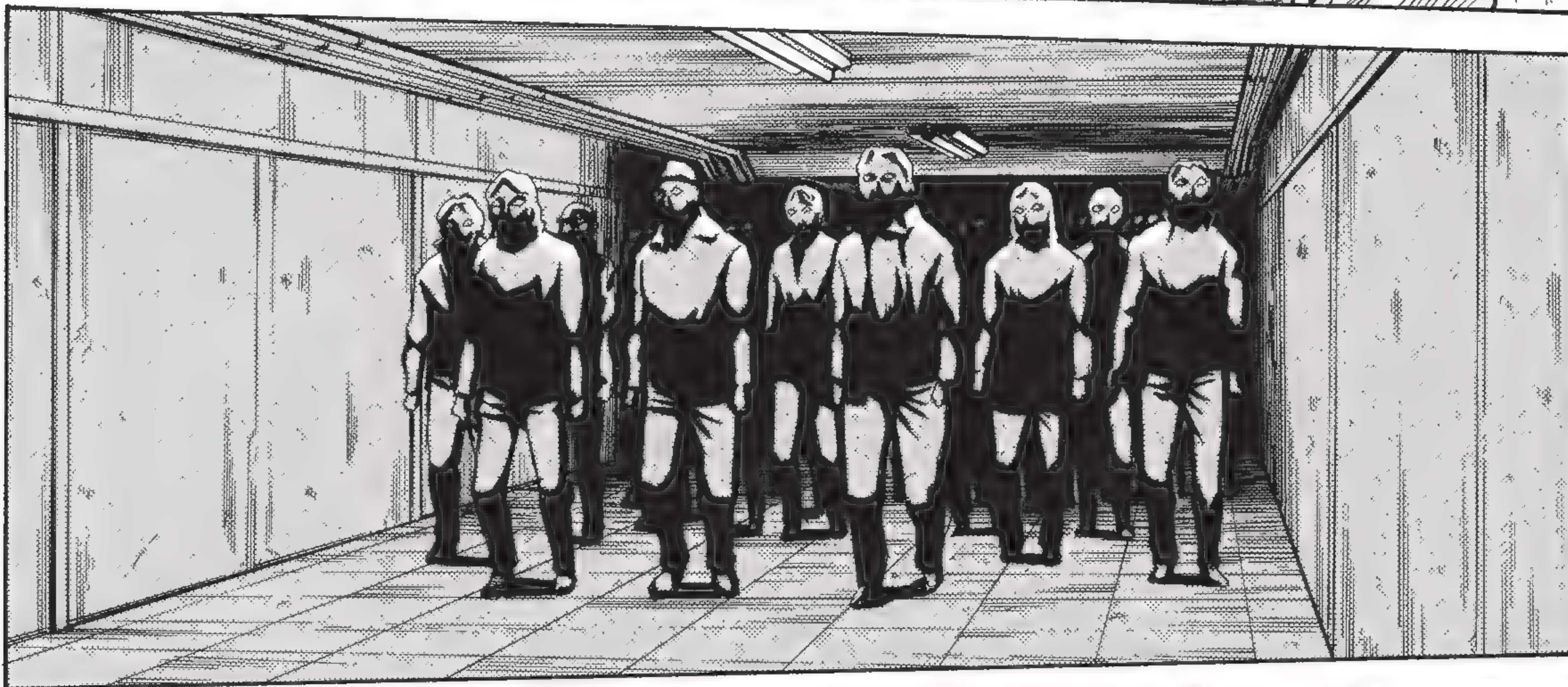
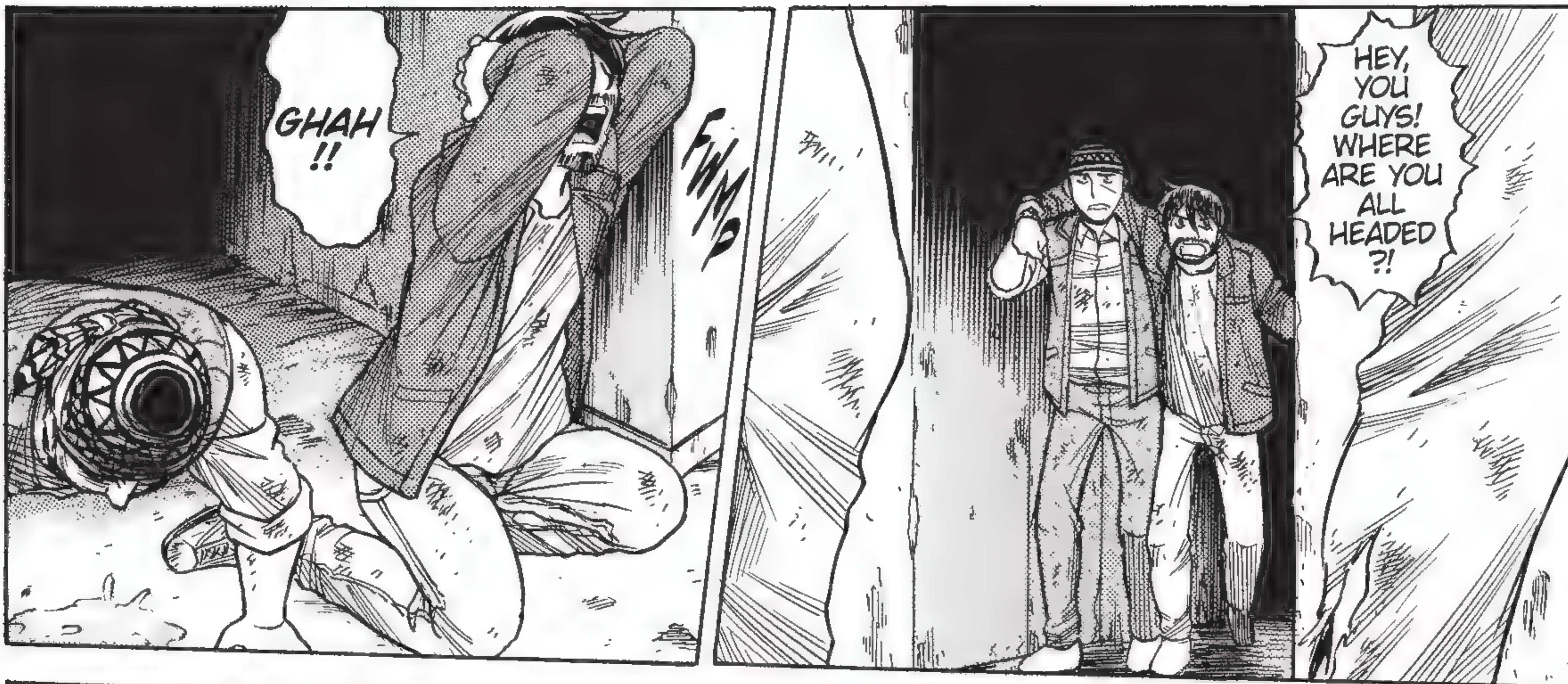
FOR
LORD
LI...

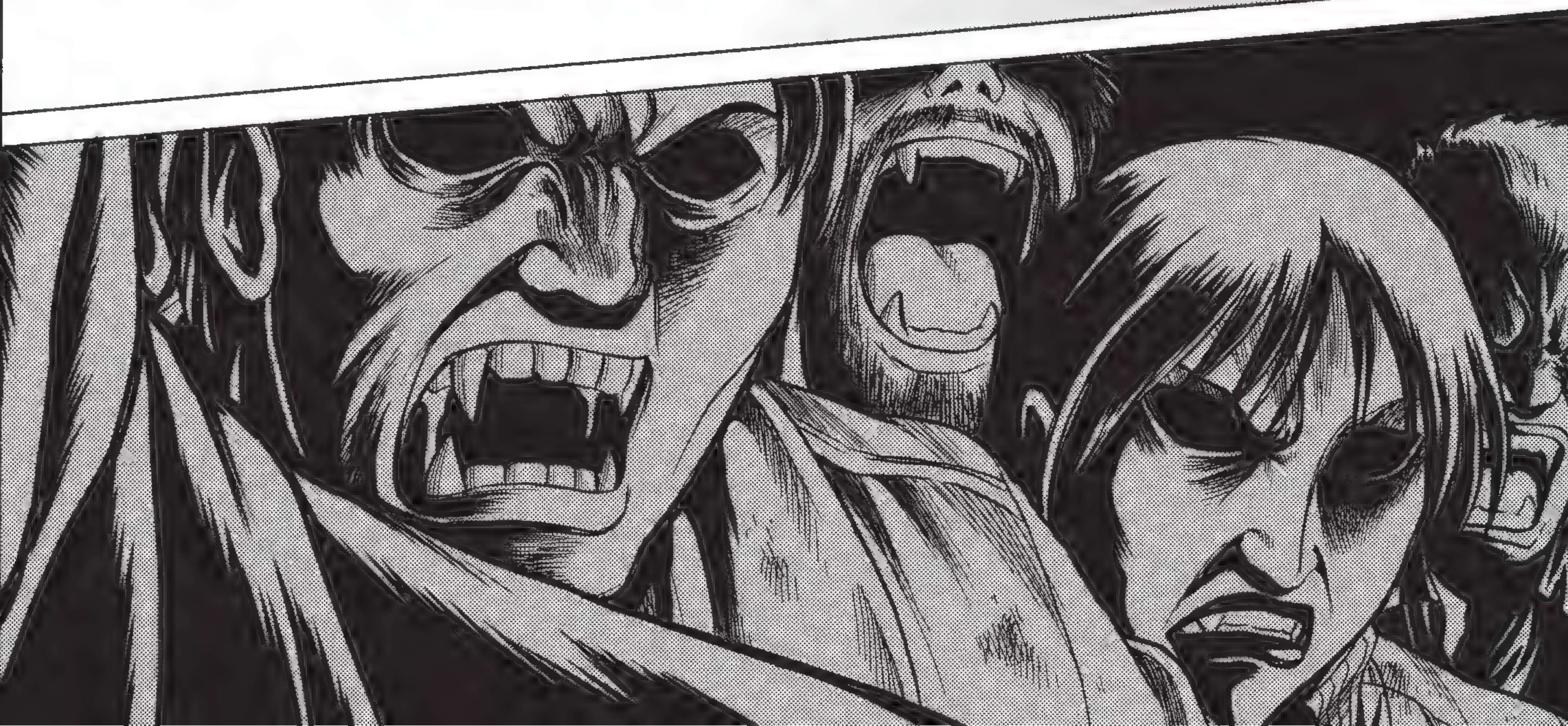


FOR
OUR
LORD...



THIS
IS THE
SAME AS
WHAT
HAPPENED
IN OUR
VILLAGE
...!

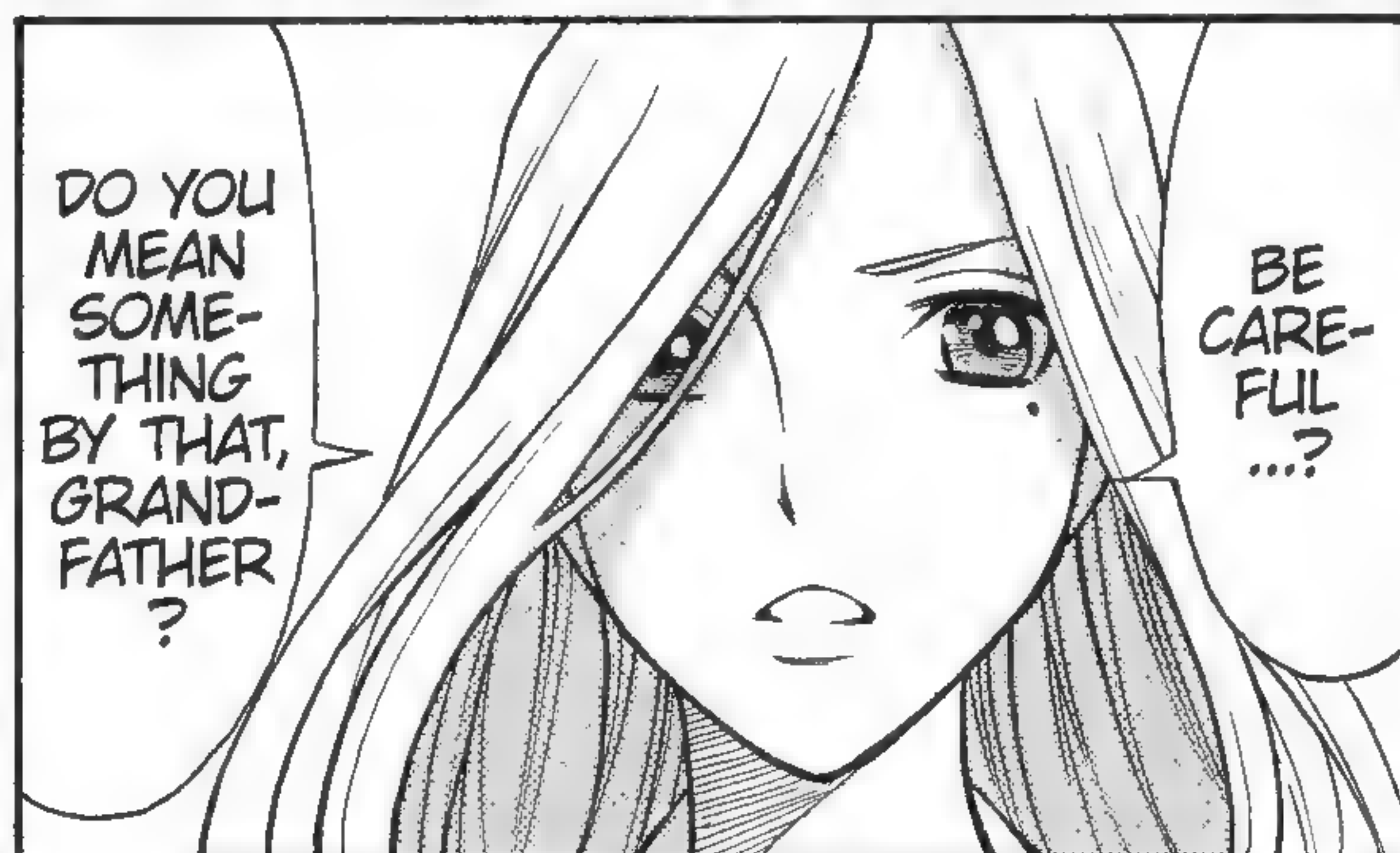
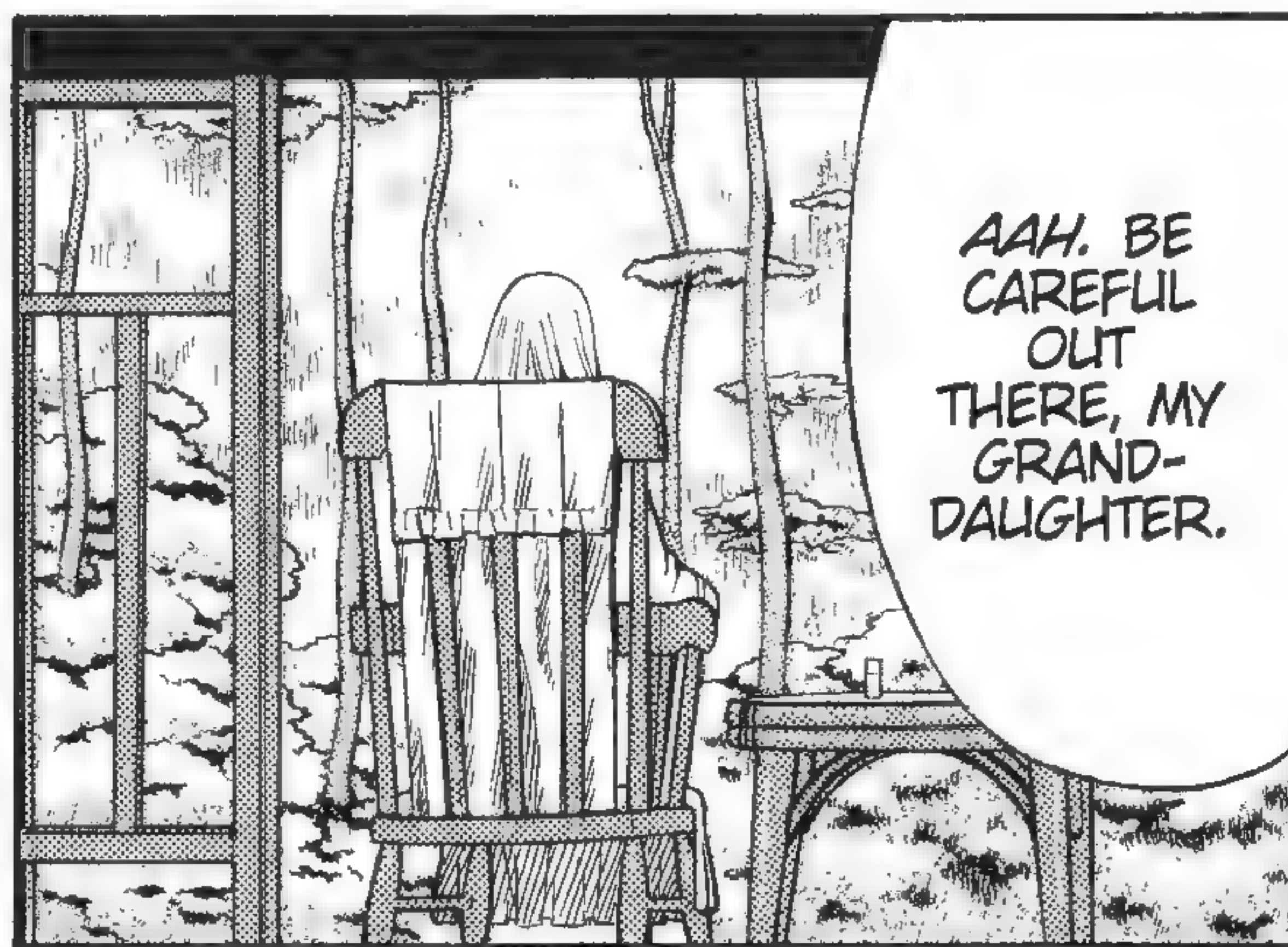
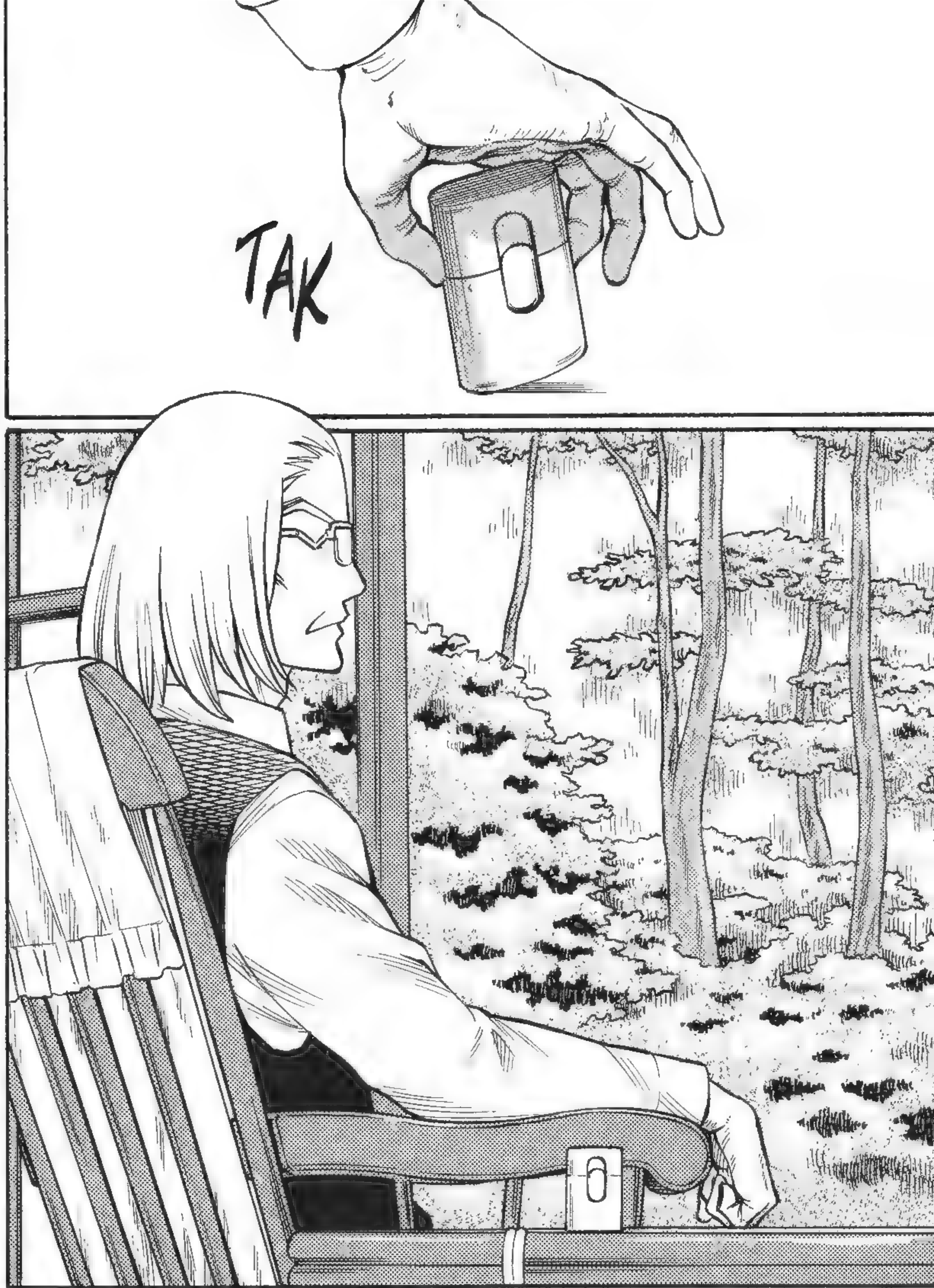


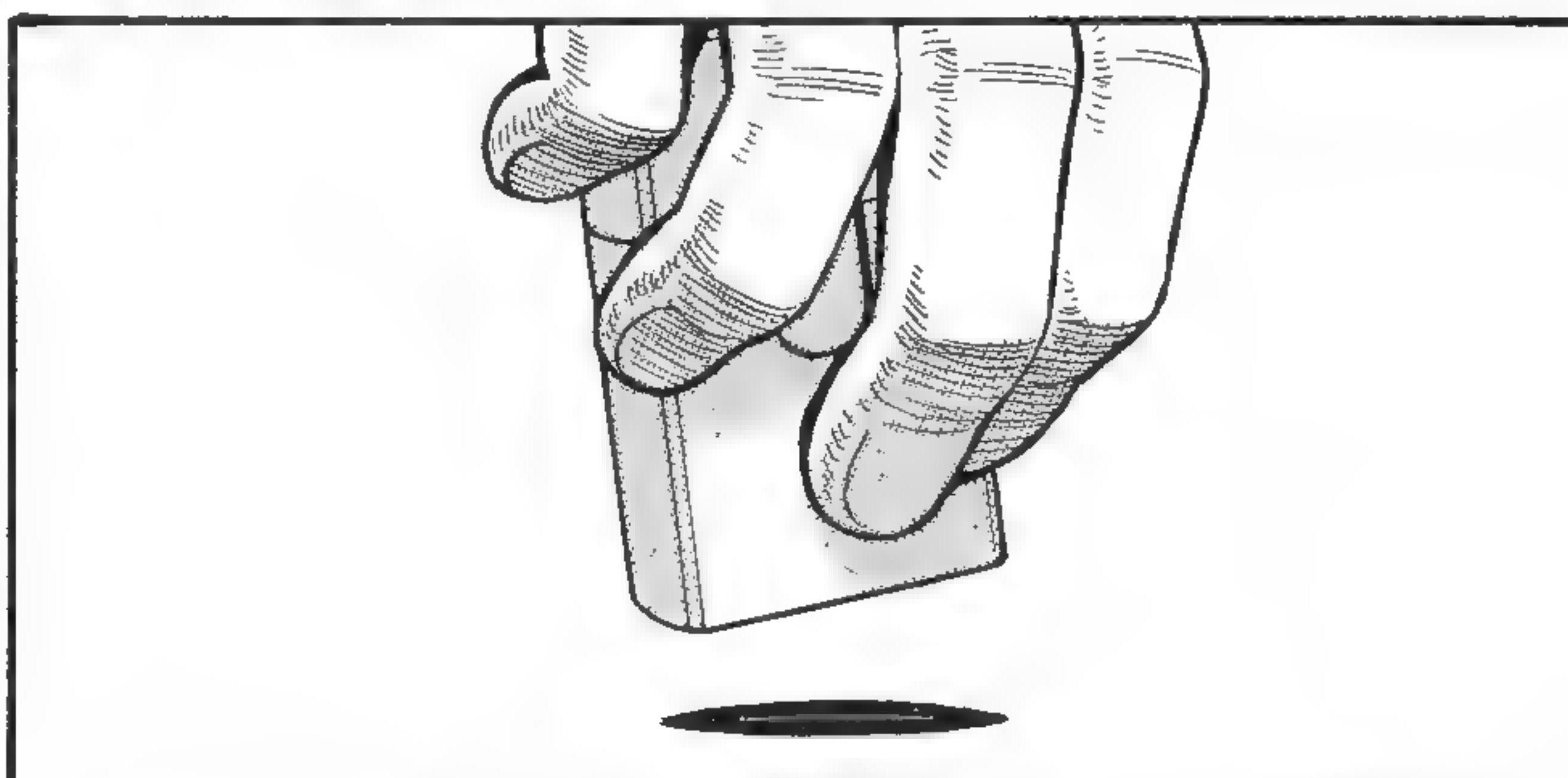
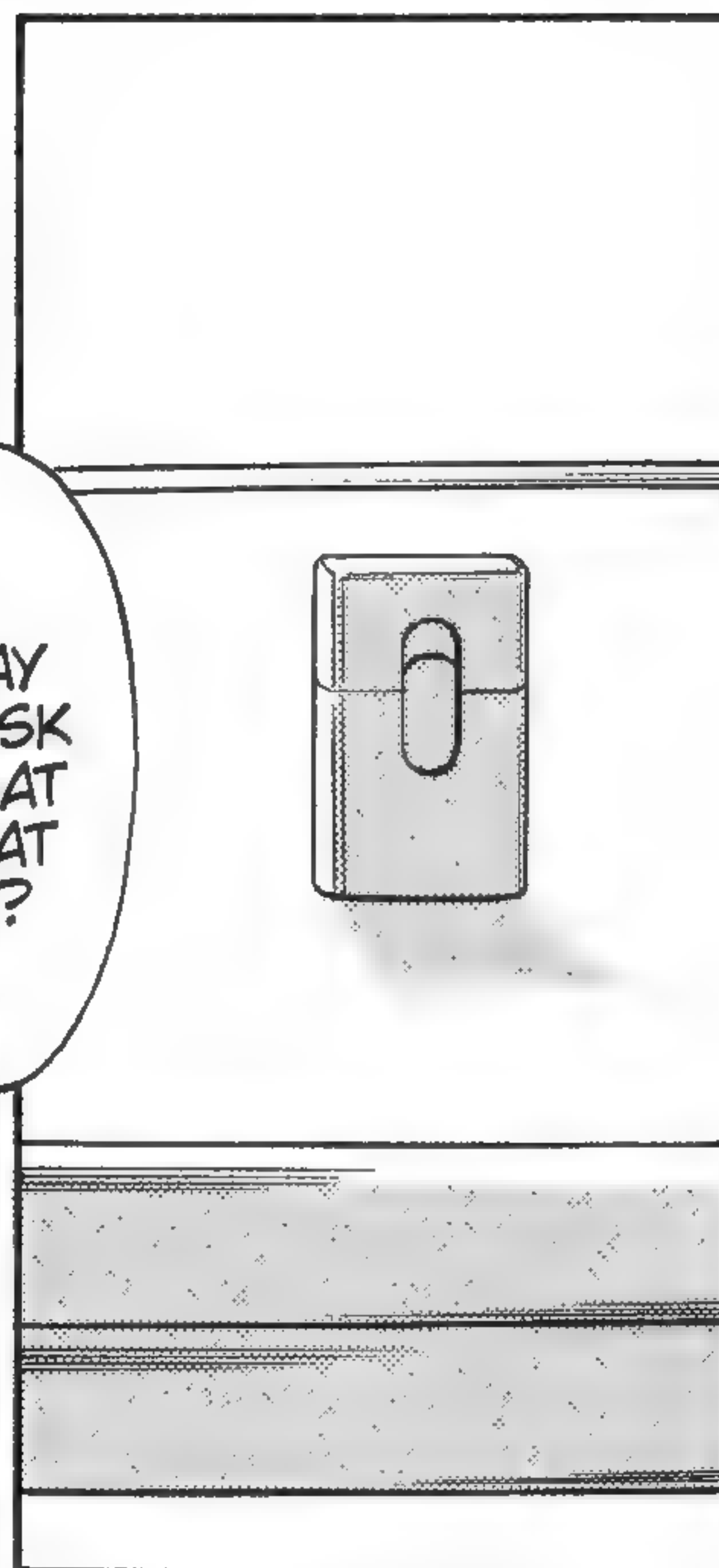




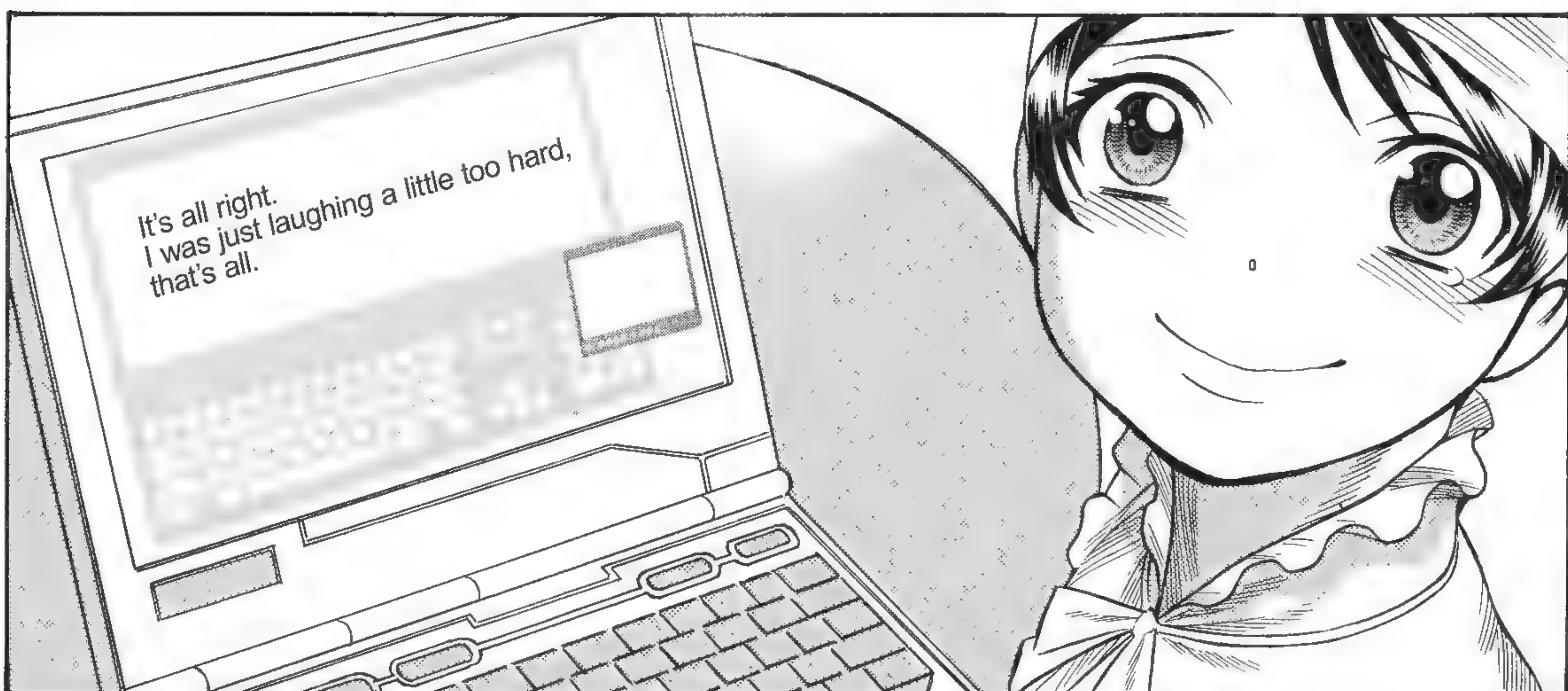
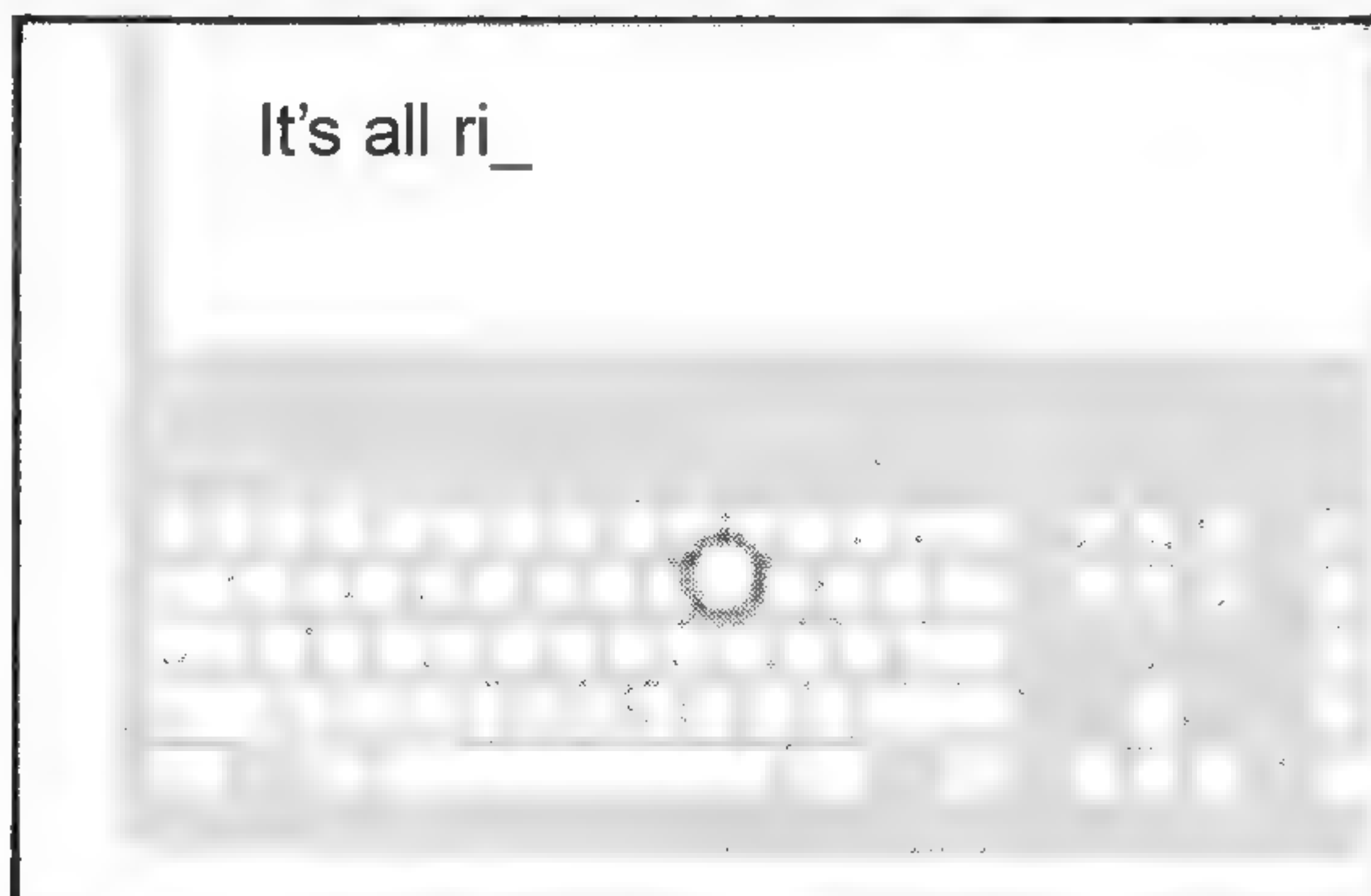
TO
LORD
LI!

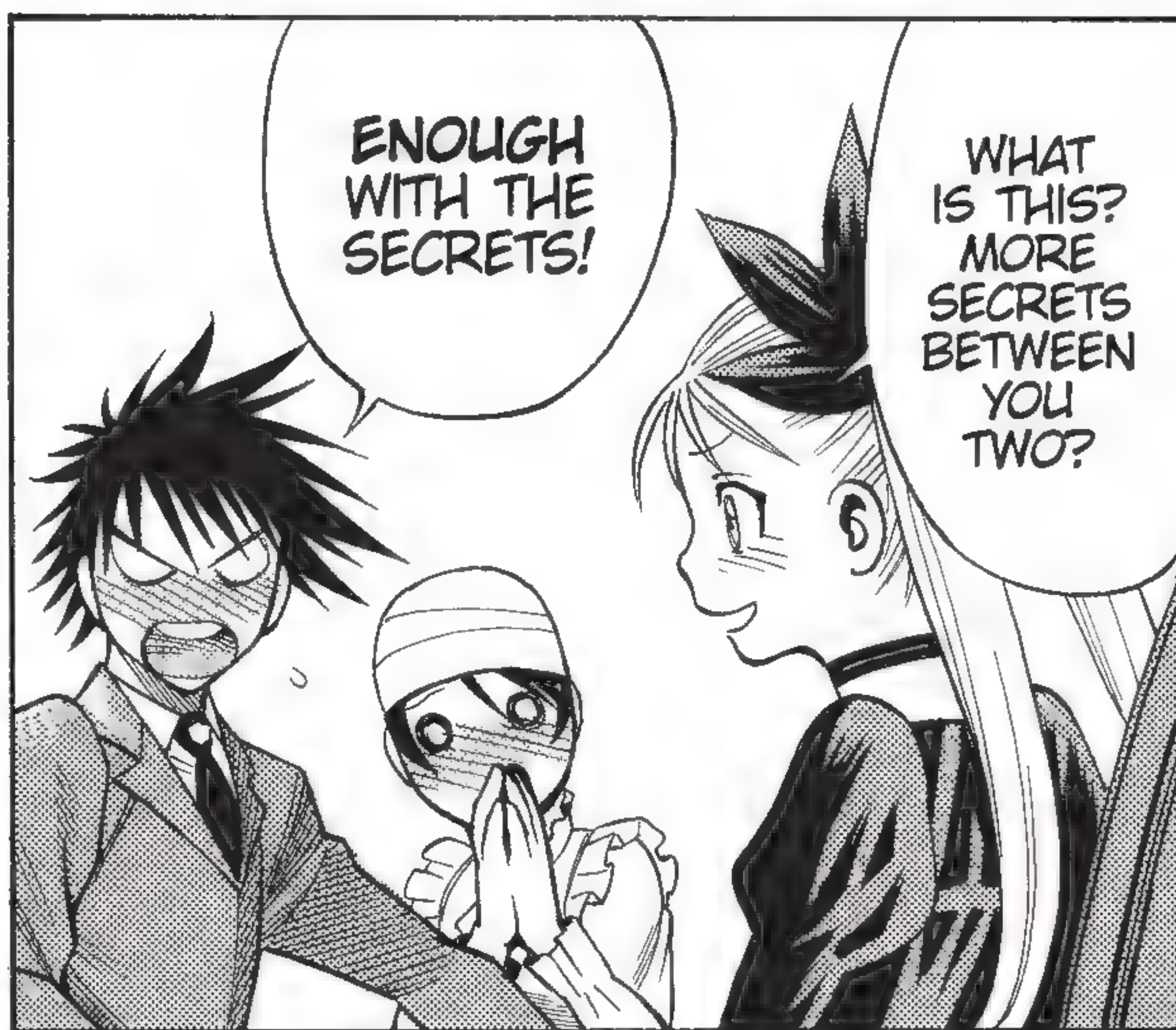
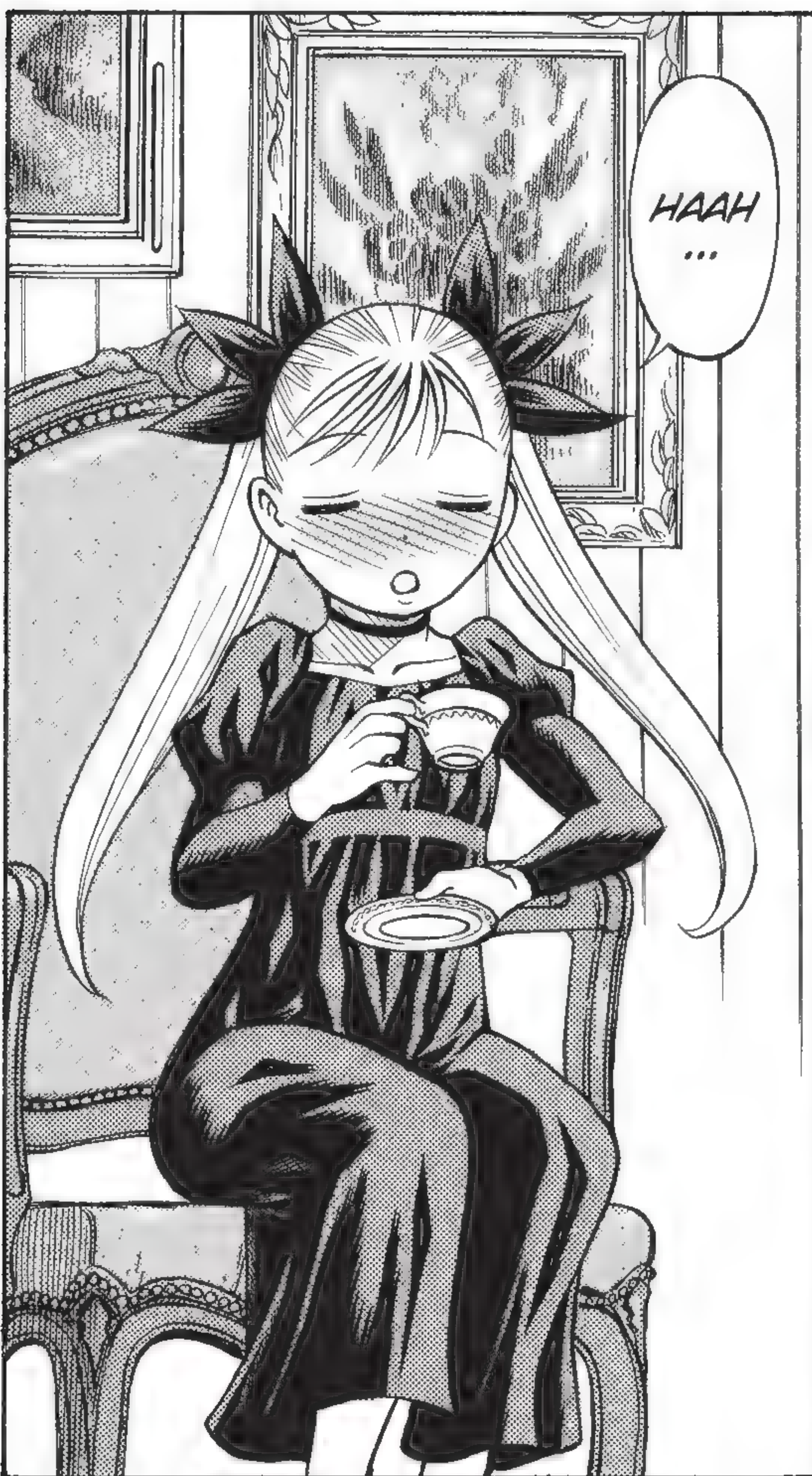


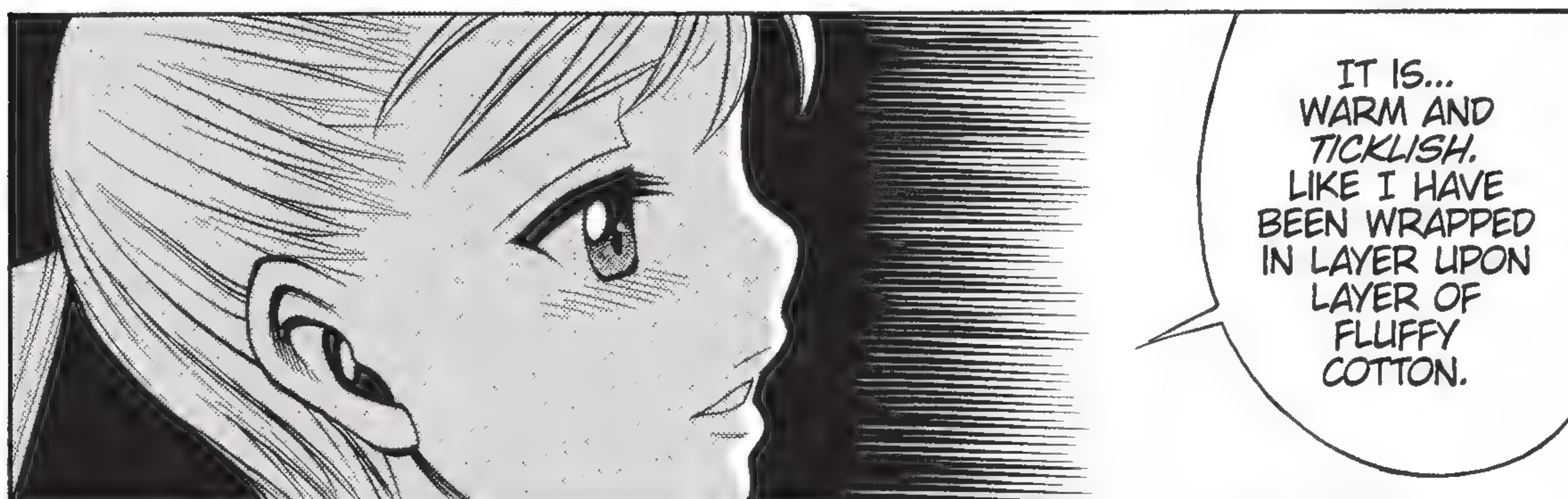
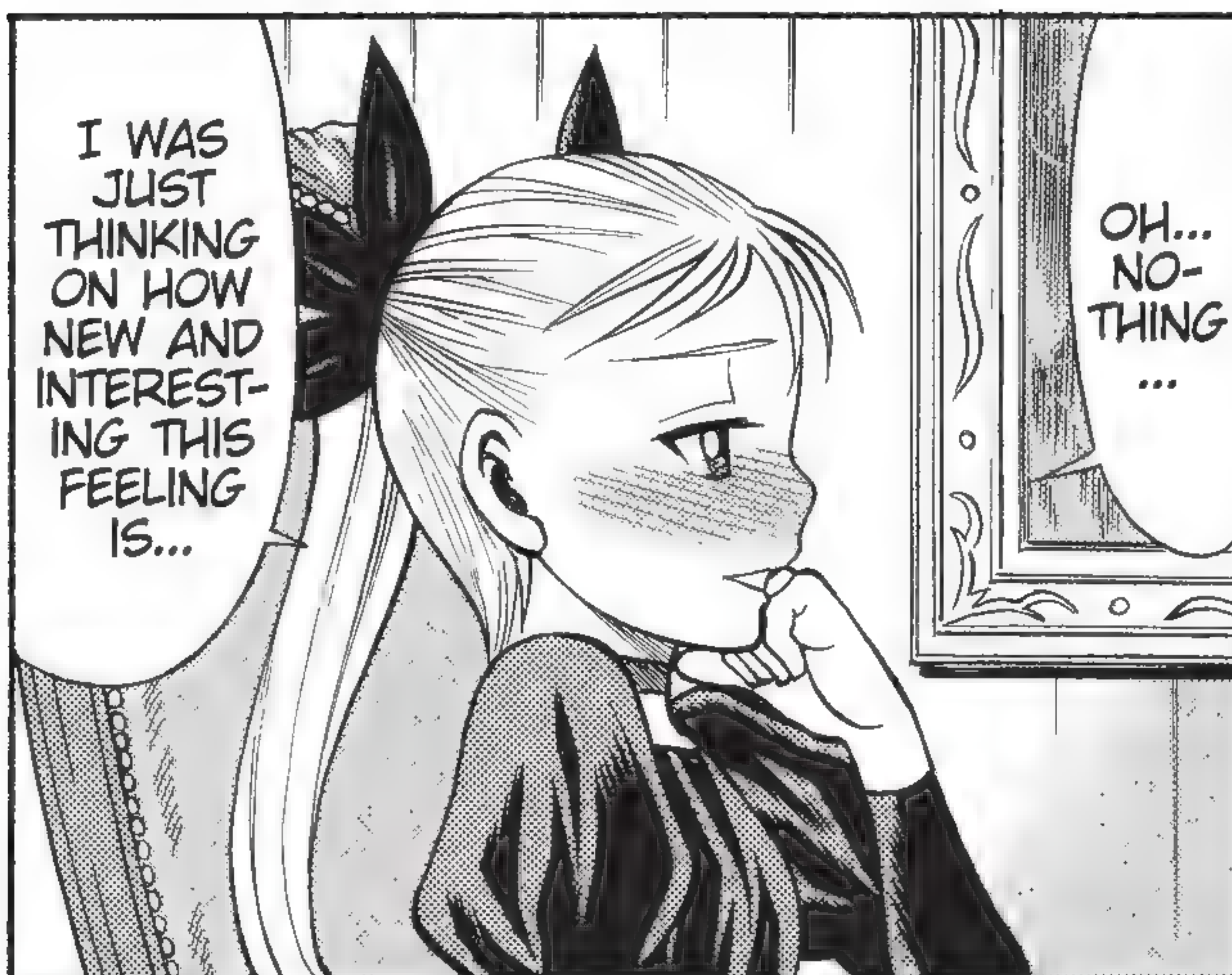


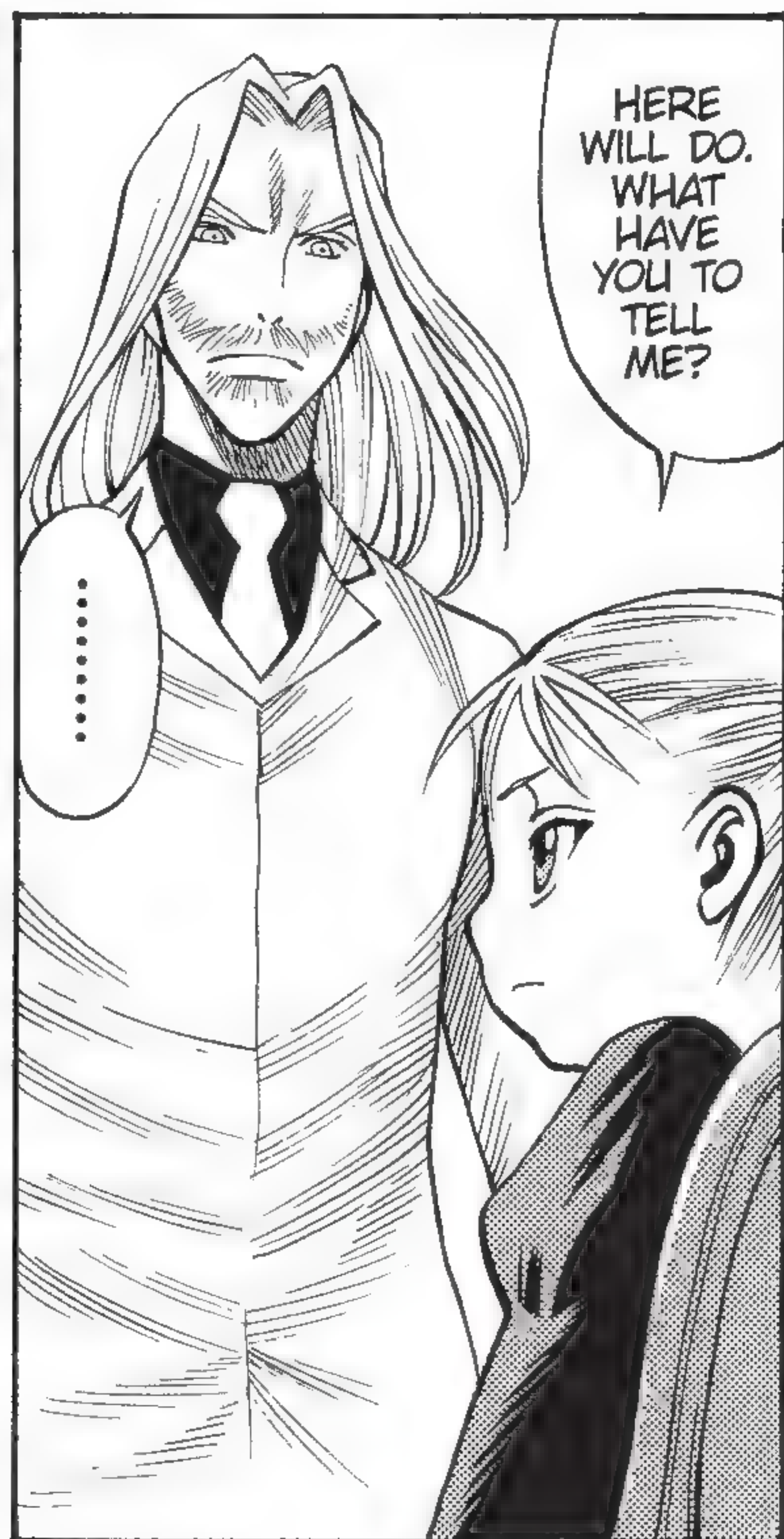
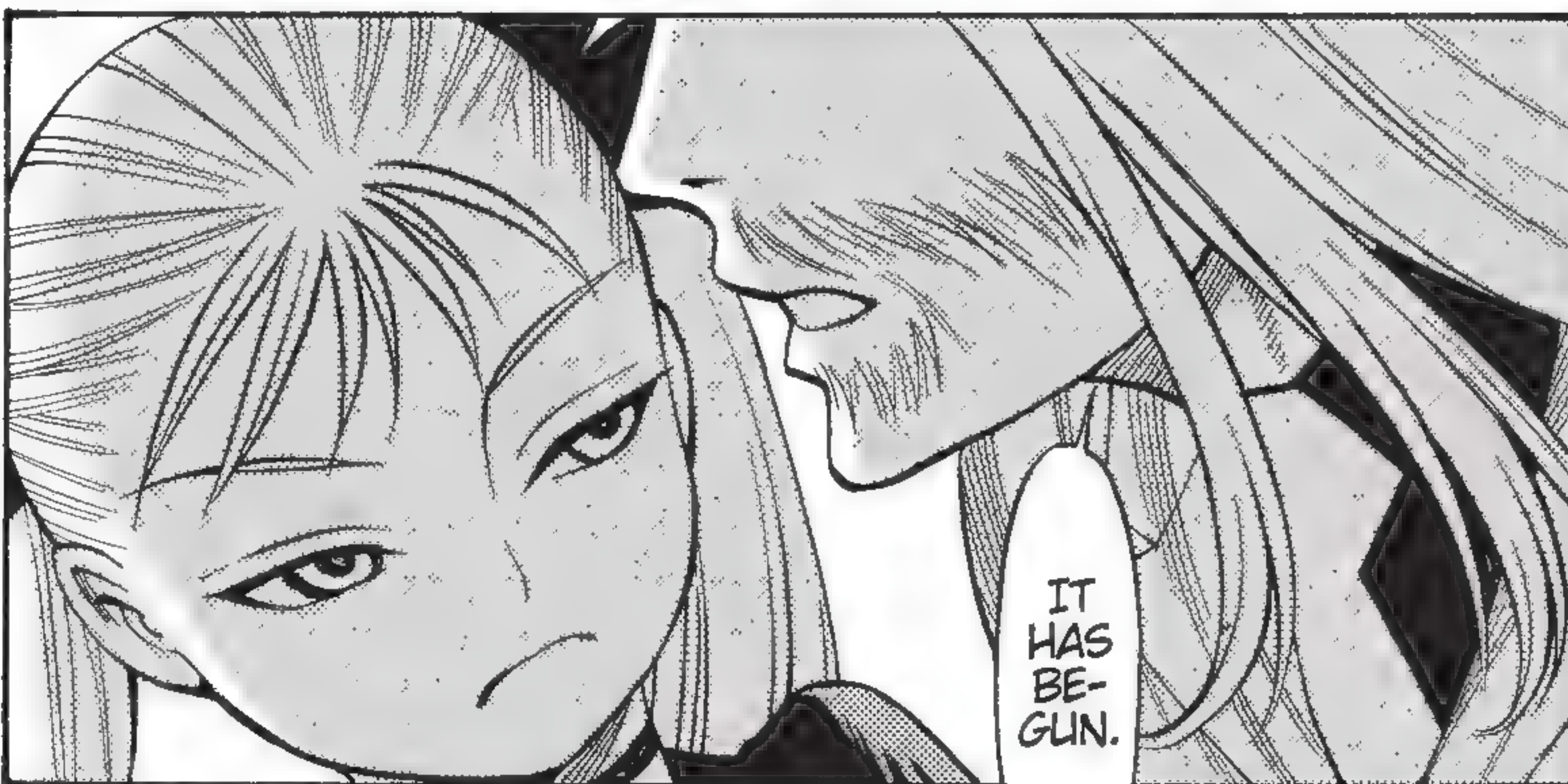
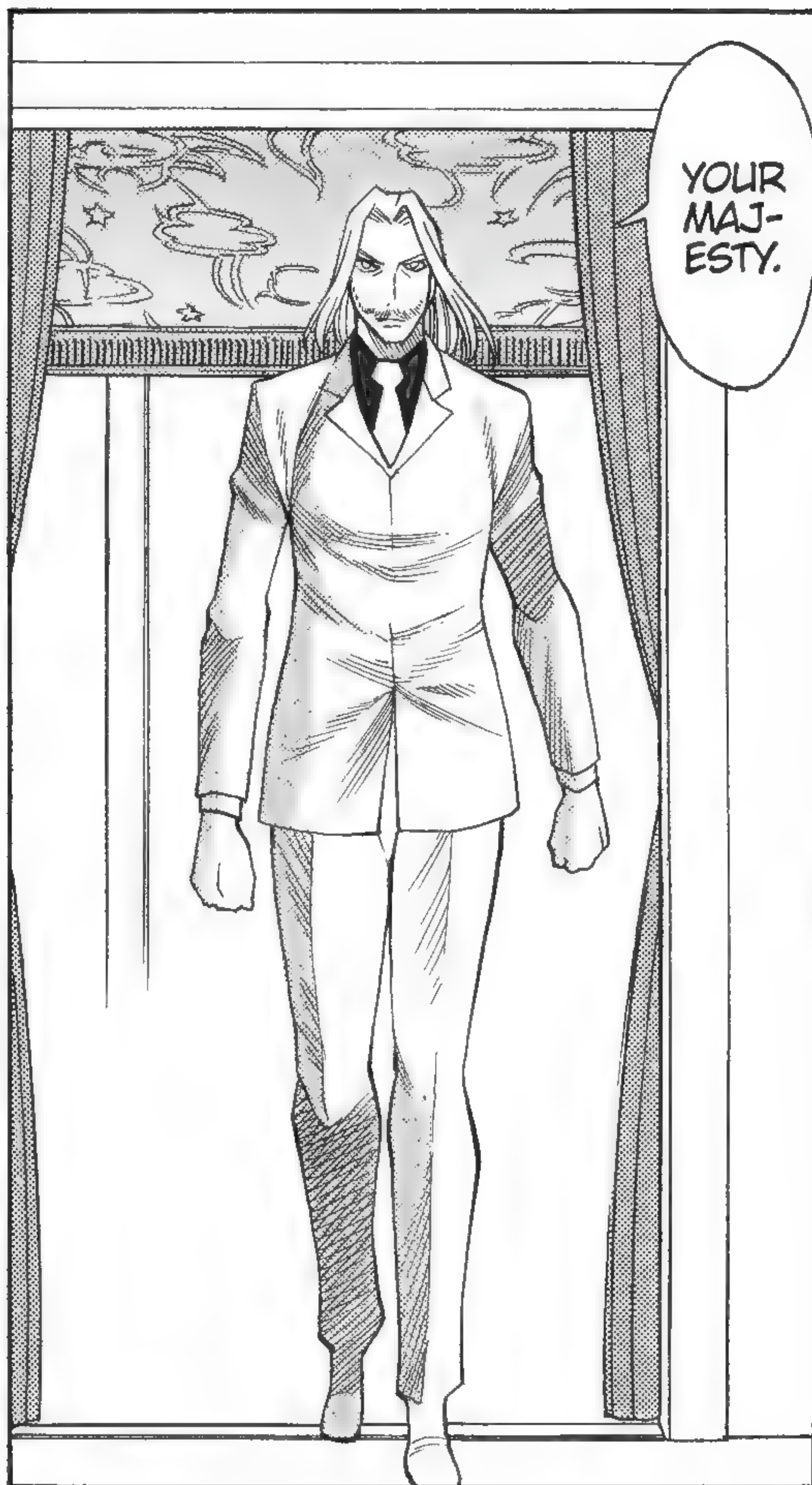
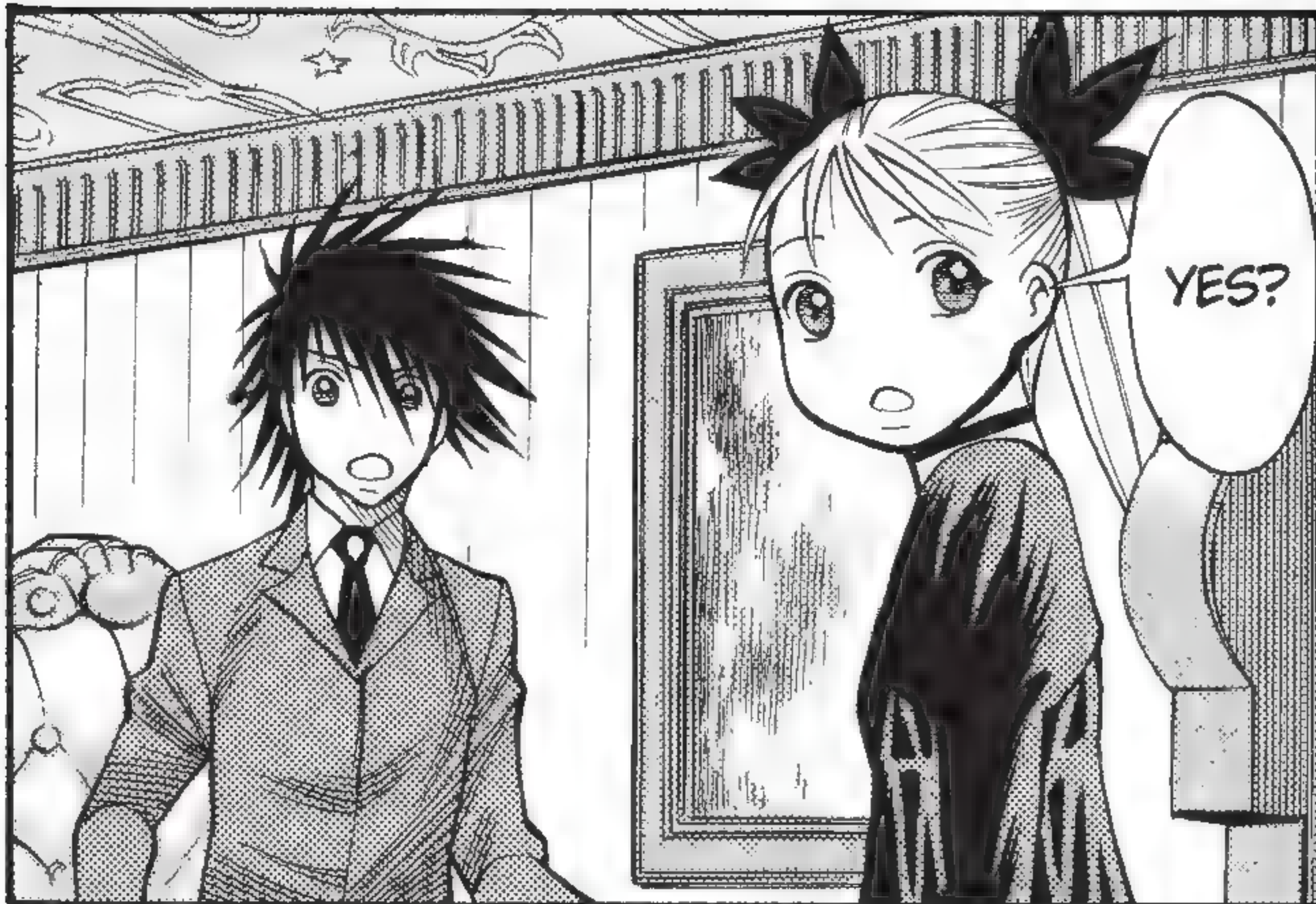














I'M SORRY, YUKI.

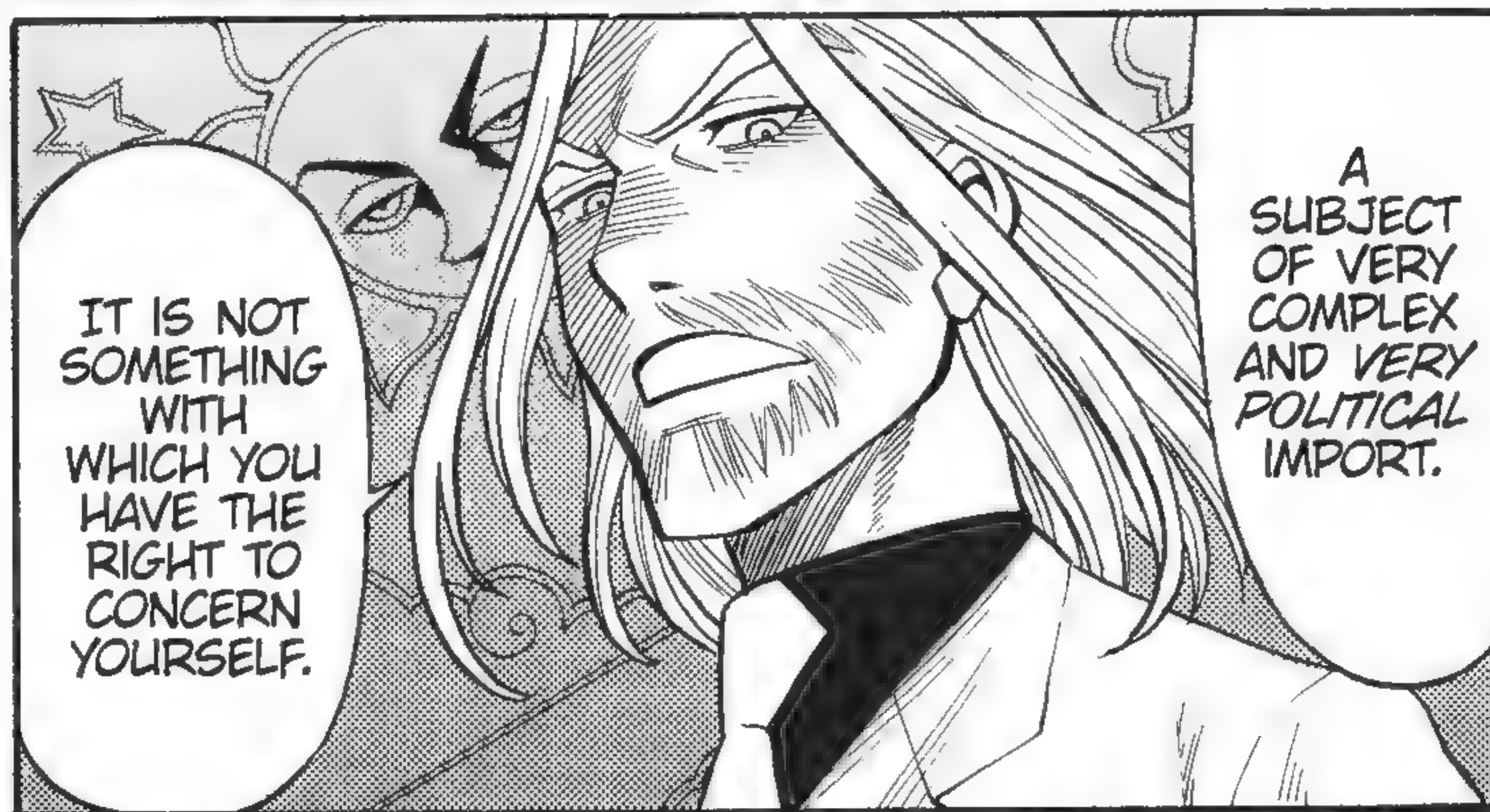
WE WILL HAVE TO POST-PONE OUR TEA UNTIL LATER.



WHAT HAS "BE-GLIN" ?!

TUNK

"BE-GLIN" ...?



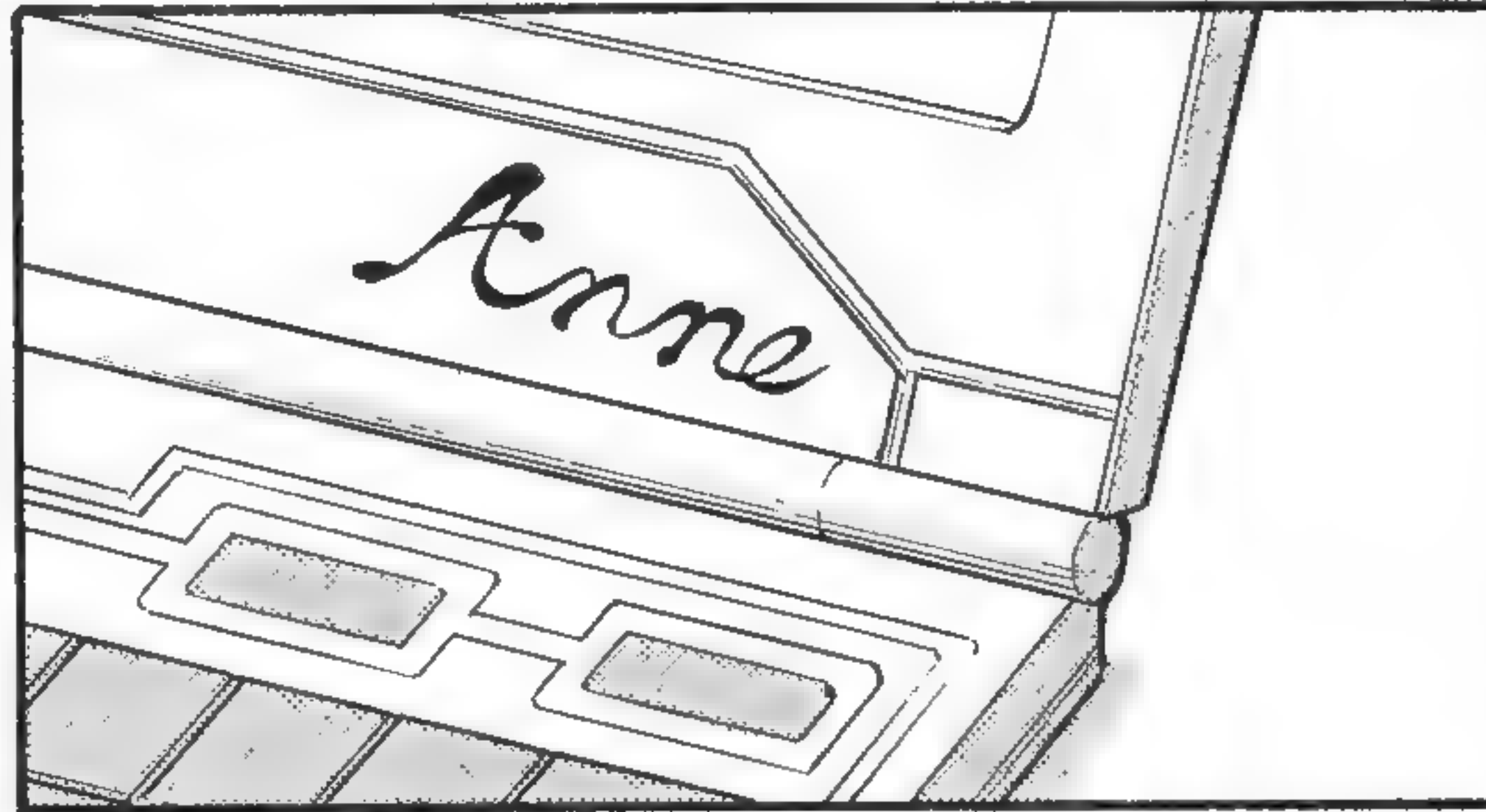
IT IS NOT SOMETHING WITH WHICH YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONCERN YOURSELF.

A SUBJECT OF VERY COMPLEX AND VERY POLITICAL IMPORT.



I SEE YOU HAVE GIVEN A NAME TO YOUR LAPTOP.

AH.



IT IS A VERY FITTING NAME. I APPROVE.

!

"ANNE," HM...?

FROM THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK, I'M SURE. YOU ALWAYS DID LIKE THAT BOOK.



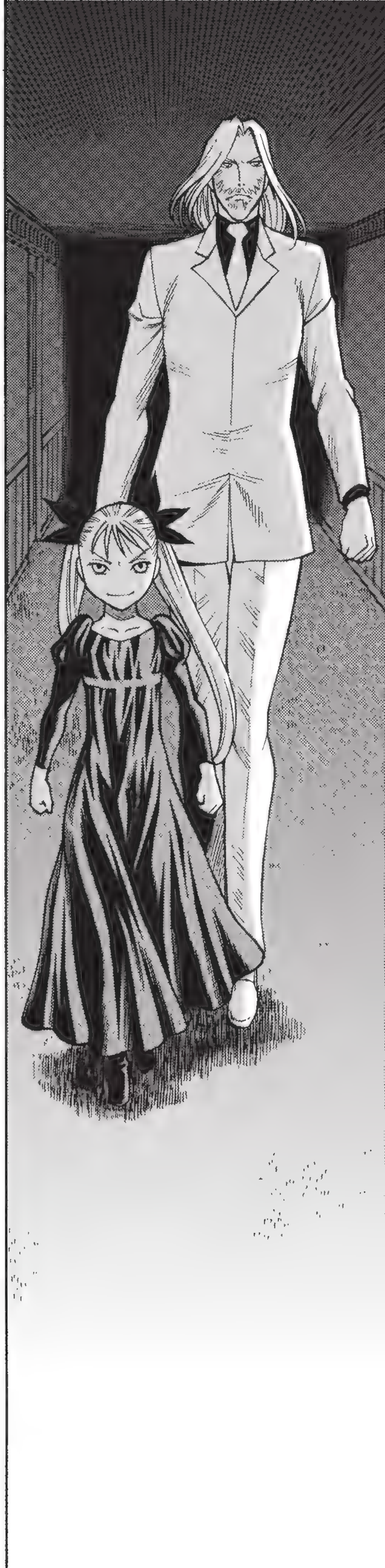
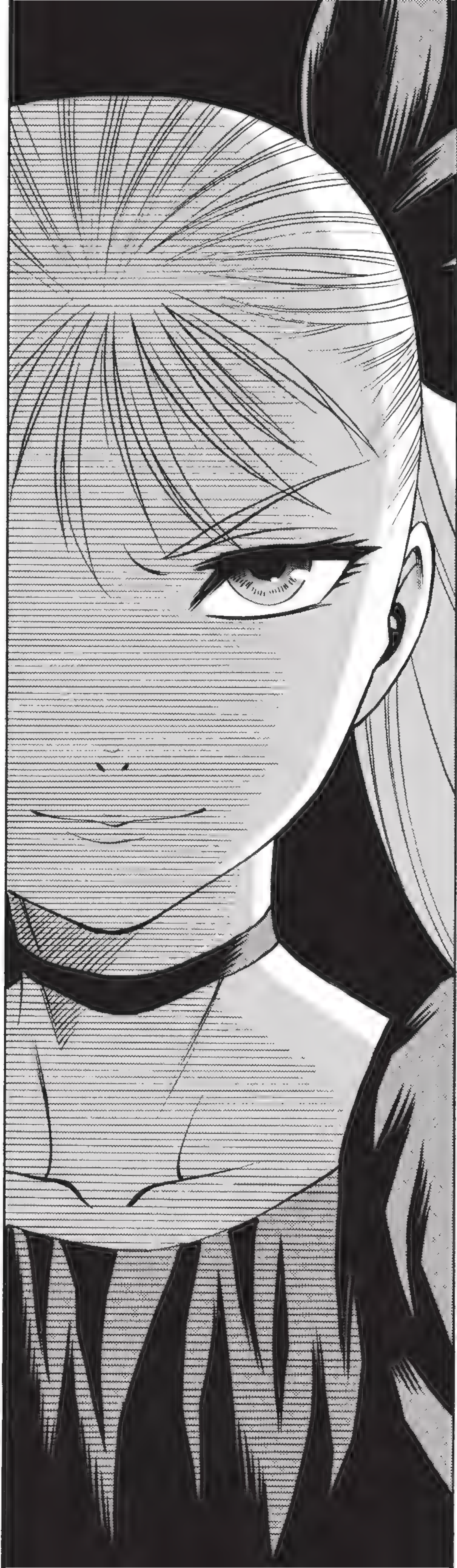
SORRY, YUKI.
I'VE GOTTA GO, TOO.

I WANT TO DO A LITTLE DIGGING AROUND ABOUT THIS "HIGHLY POLITICAL" THING THAT JUST HAPPENED.

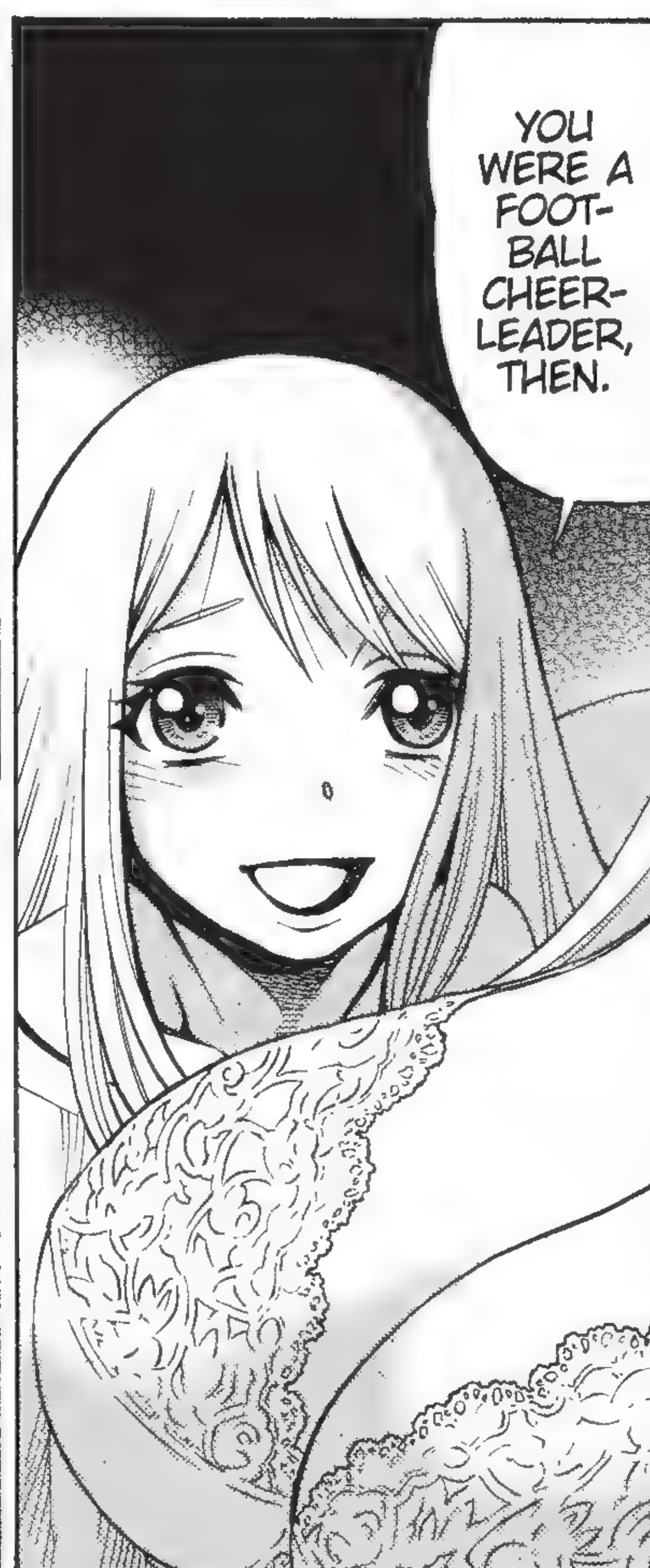
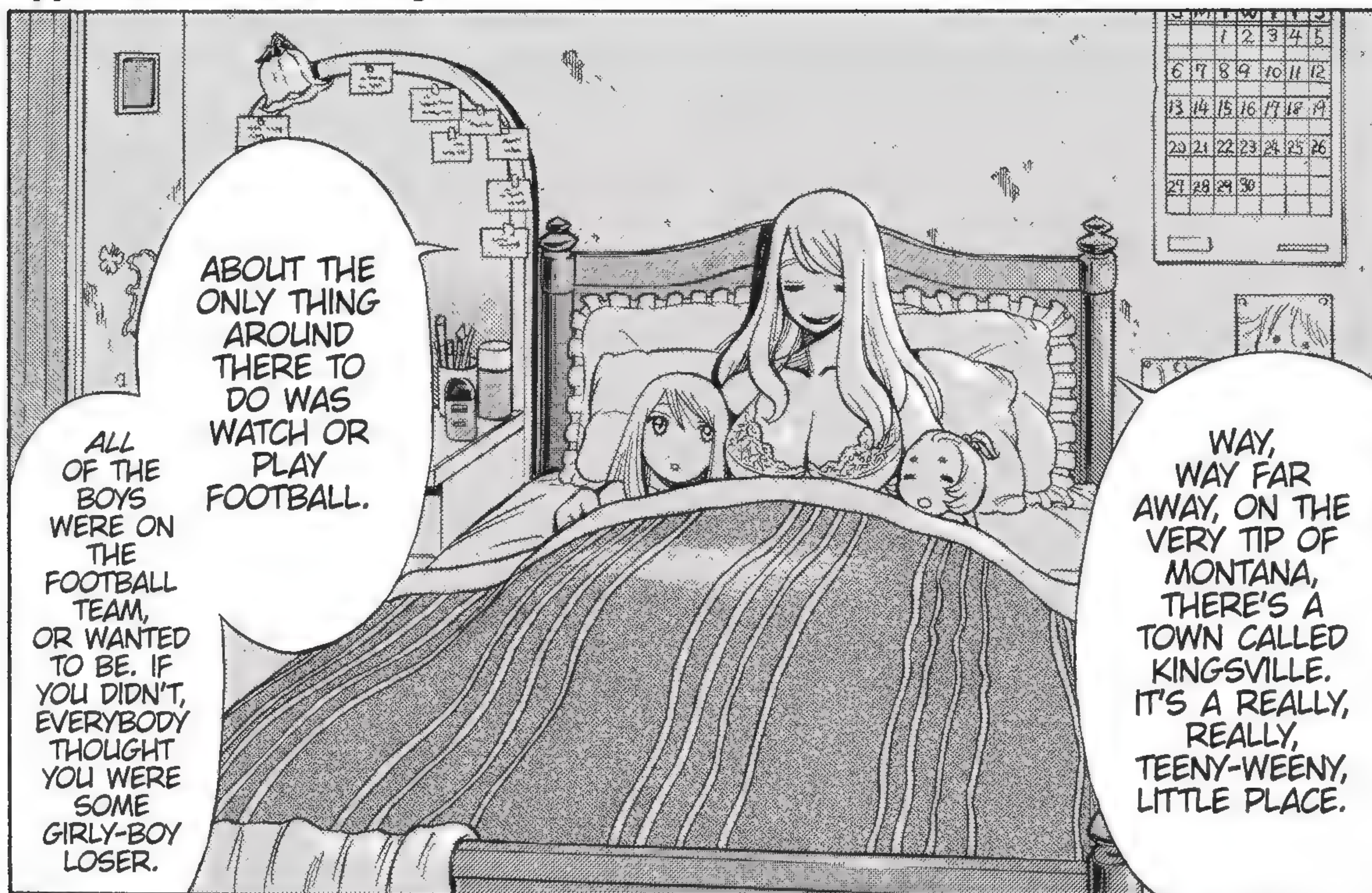


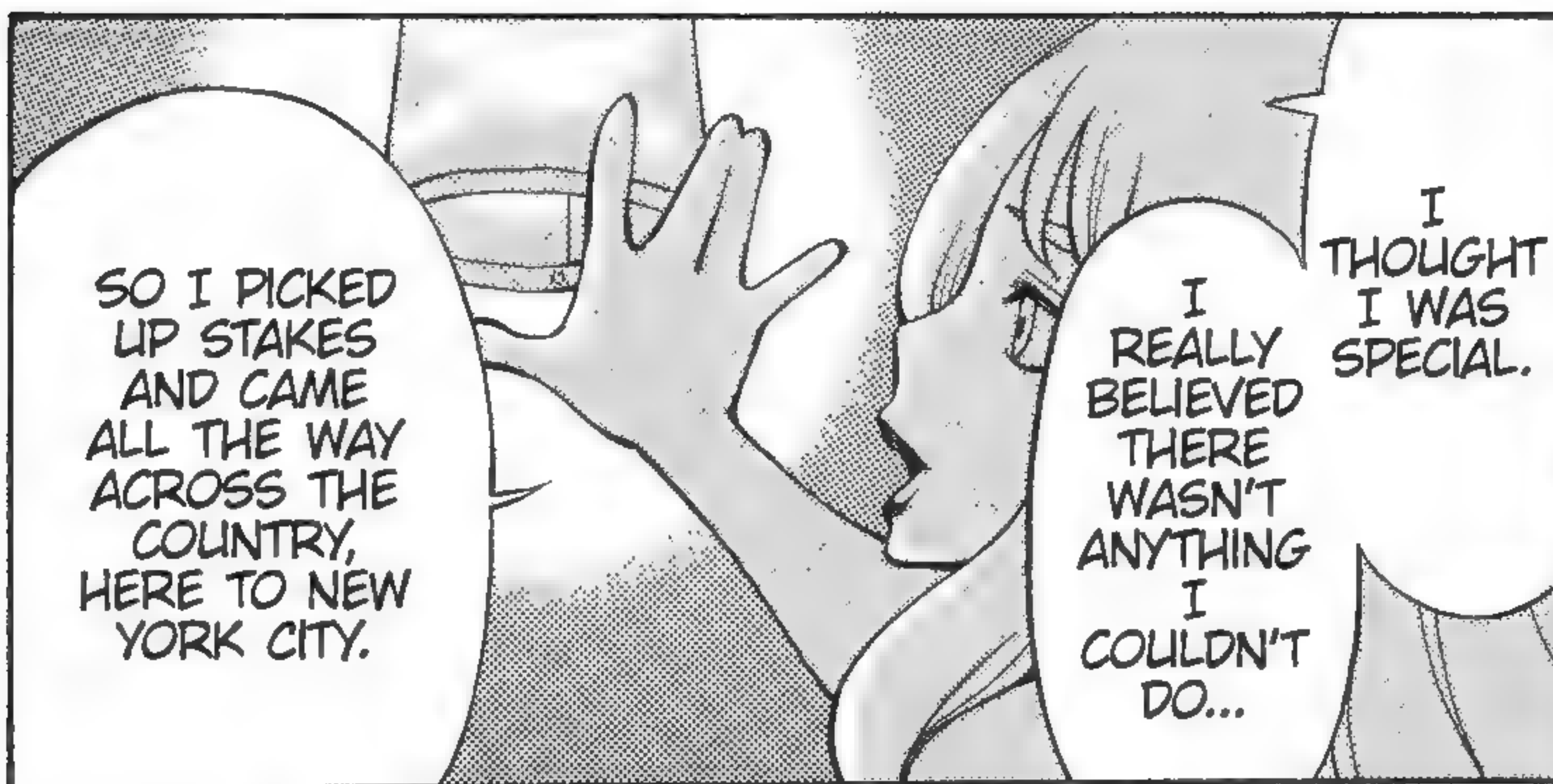
FROM THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK, I'M SURE...

"ANNE," HM...?



Appendix: Bedtime Story

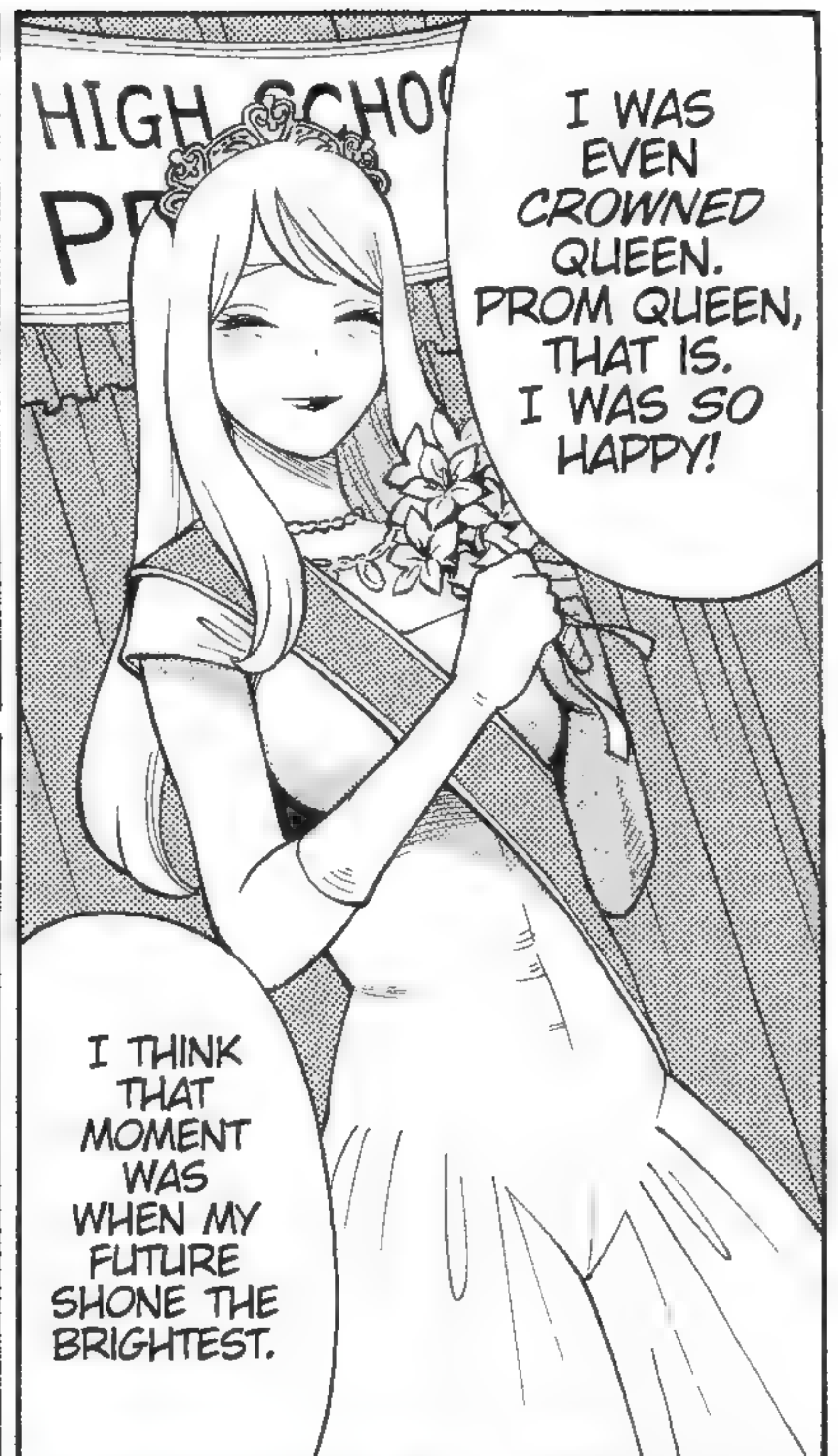




SO I PICKED UP STAKES AND CAME ALL THE WAY ACROSS THE COUNTRY, HERE TO NEW YORK CITY.

I REALLY BELIEVED THERE WASN'T ANYTHING I COULDN'T DO...

I THOUGHT I WAS SPECIAL.



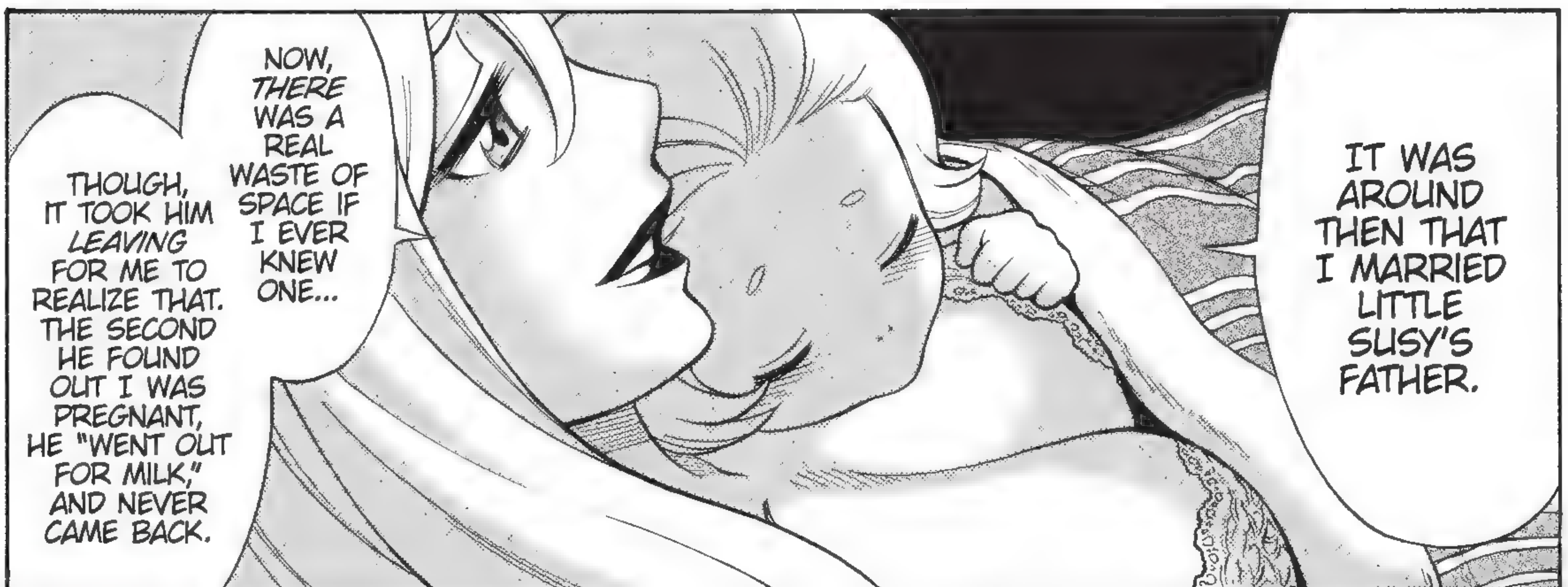
I WAS EVEN CROWNED QUEEN. PROM QUEEN, THAT IS. I WAS SO HAPPY!

I THINK THAT MOMENT WAS WHEN MY FUTURE SHONE THE BRIGHTEST.



I FINALLY KNEW I WASN'T THAT SPECIAL. NOT REALLY.

THREE YEARS WAS ALL IT TOOK. THREE YEARS WORKING AS A WAITRESS IN A CRUMMY DINER, AND I FINALLY WOKE UP AND SMELLED THE COFFEE.



THOUGH, IT TOOK HIM LEAVING FOR ME TO REALIZE THAT. THE SECOND HE FOUND OUT I WAS PREGNANT, HE "WENT OUT FOR MILK," AND NEVER CAME BACK.

NOW, THERE WAS A REAL WASTE OF SPACE IF I EVER KNEW ONE...

IT WAS AROUND THEN THAT I MARRIED LITTLE SUSY'S FATHER.



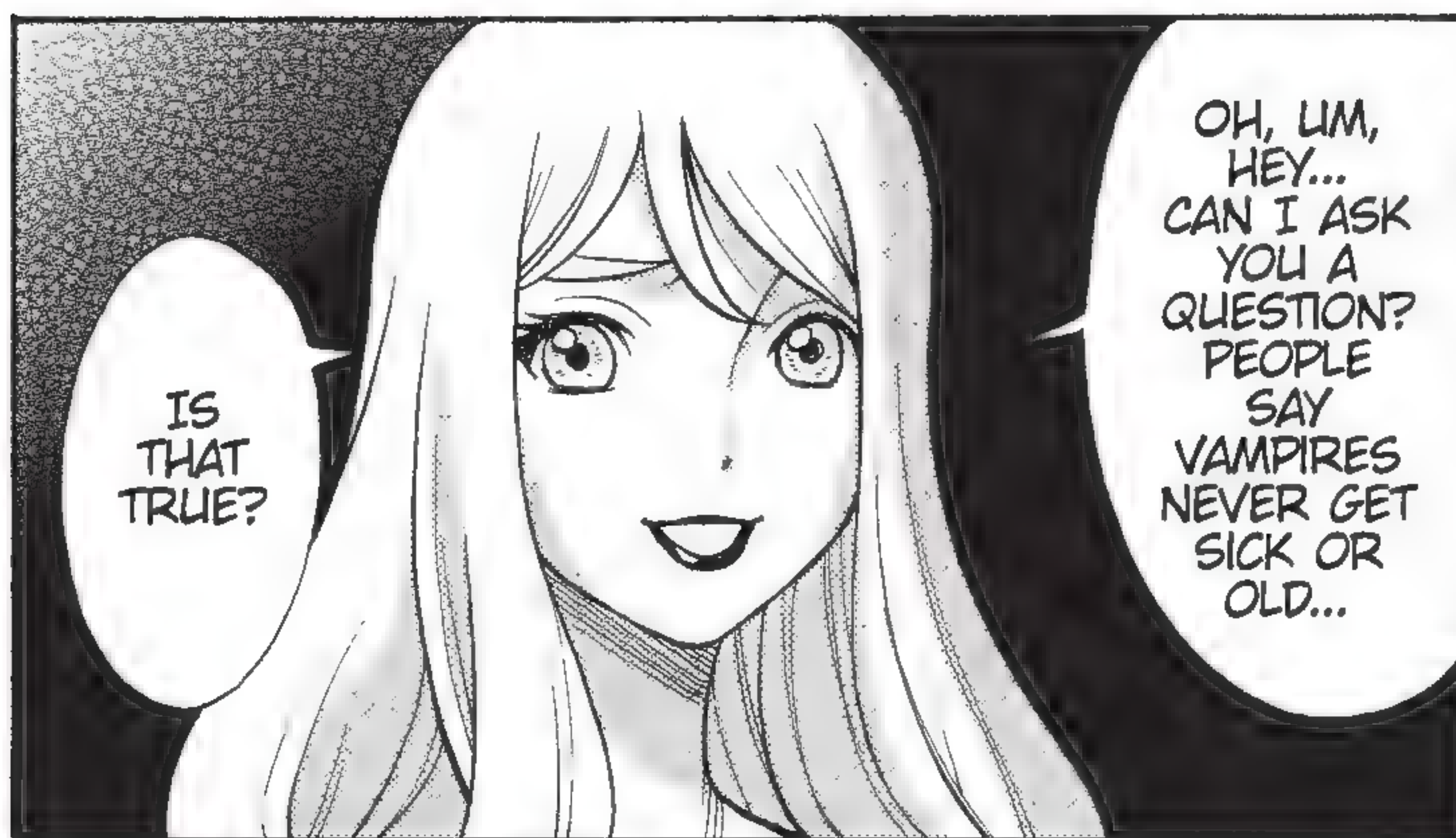
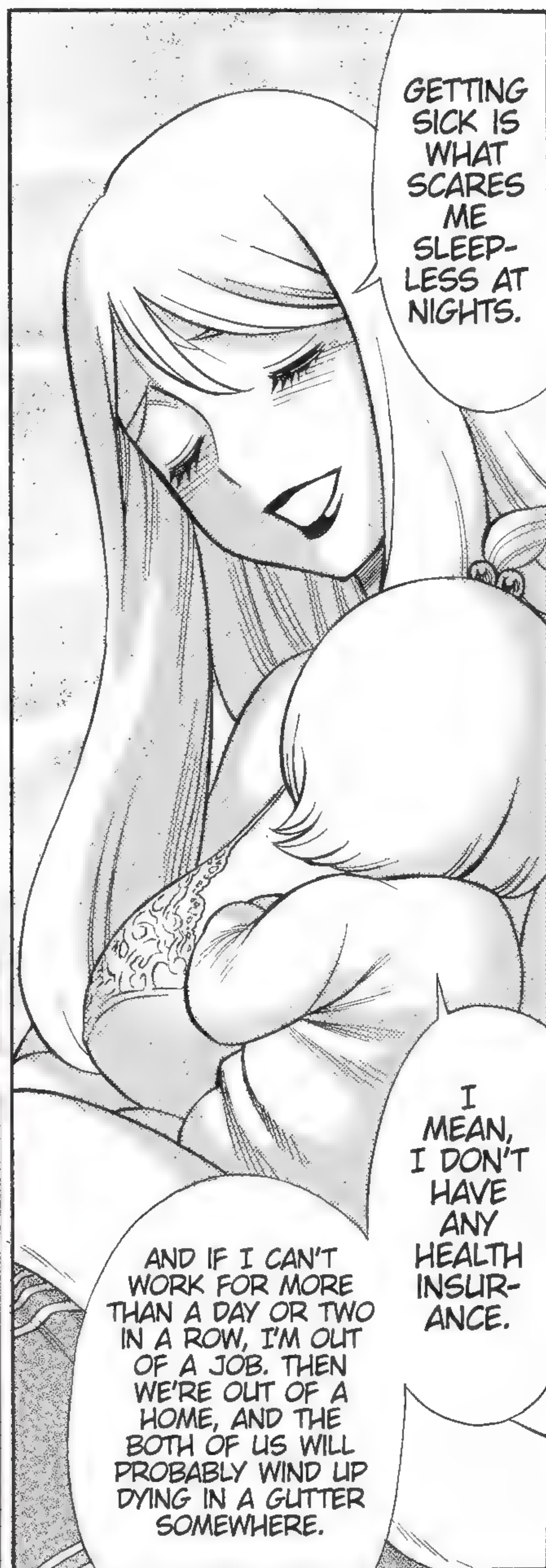
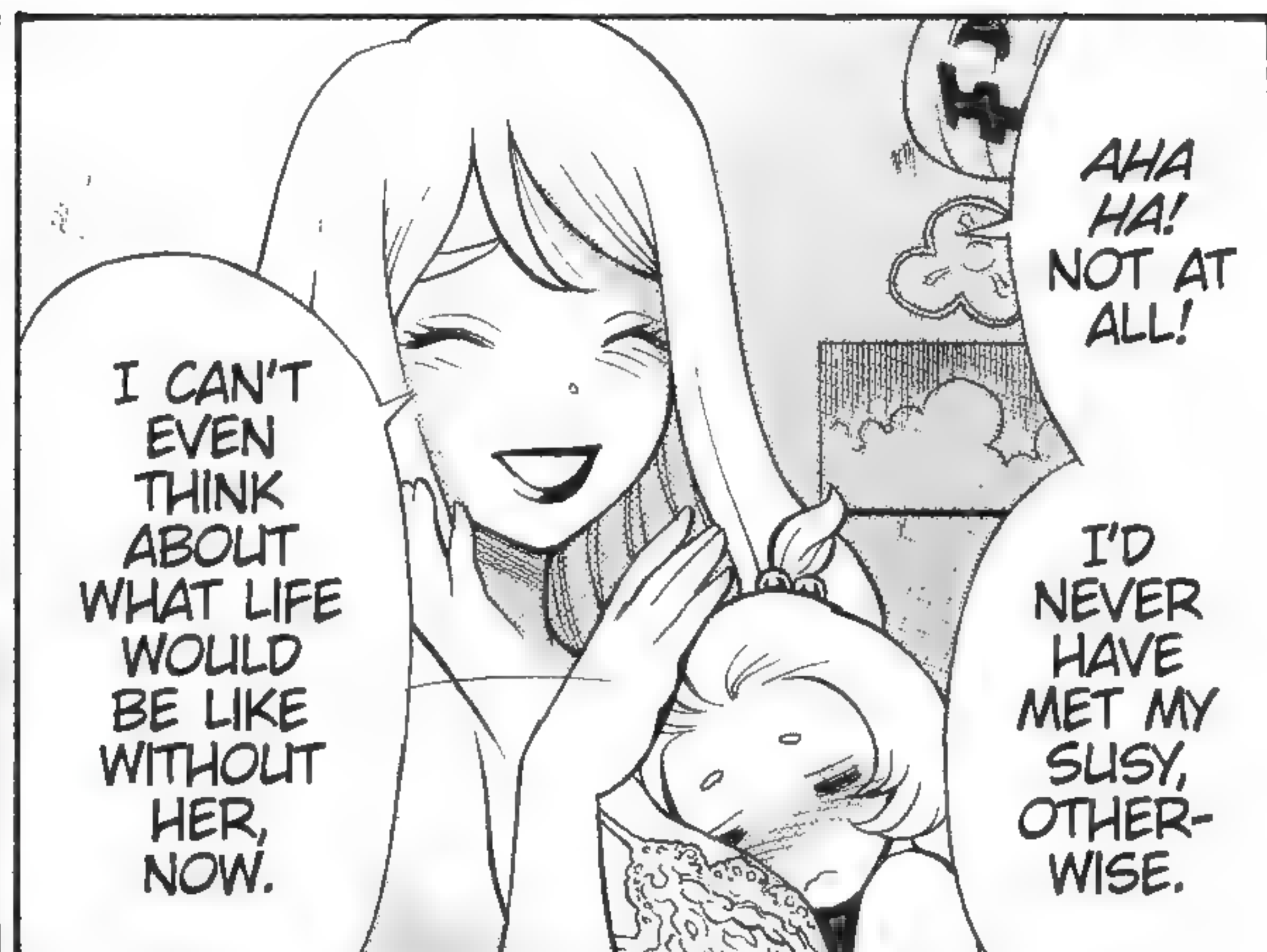
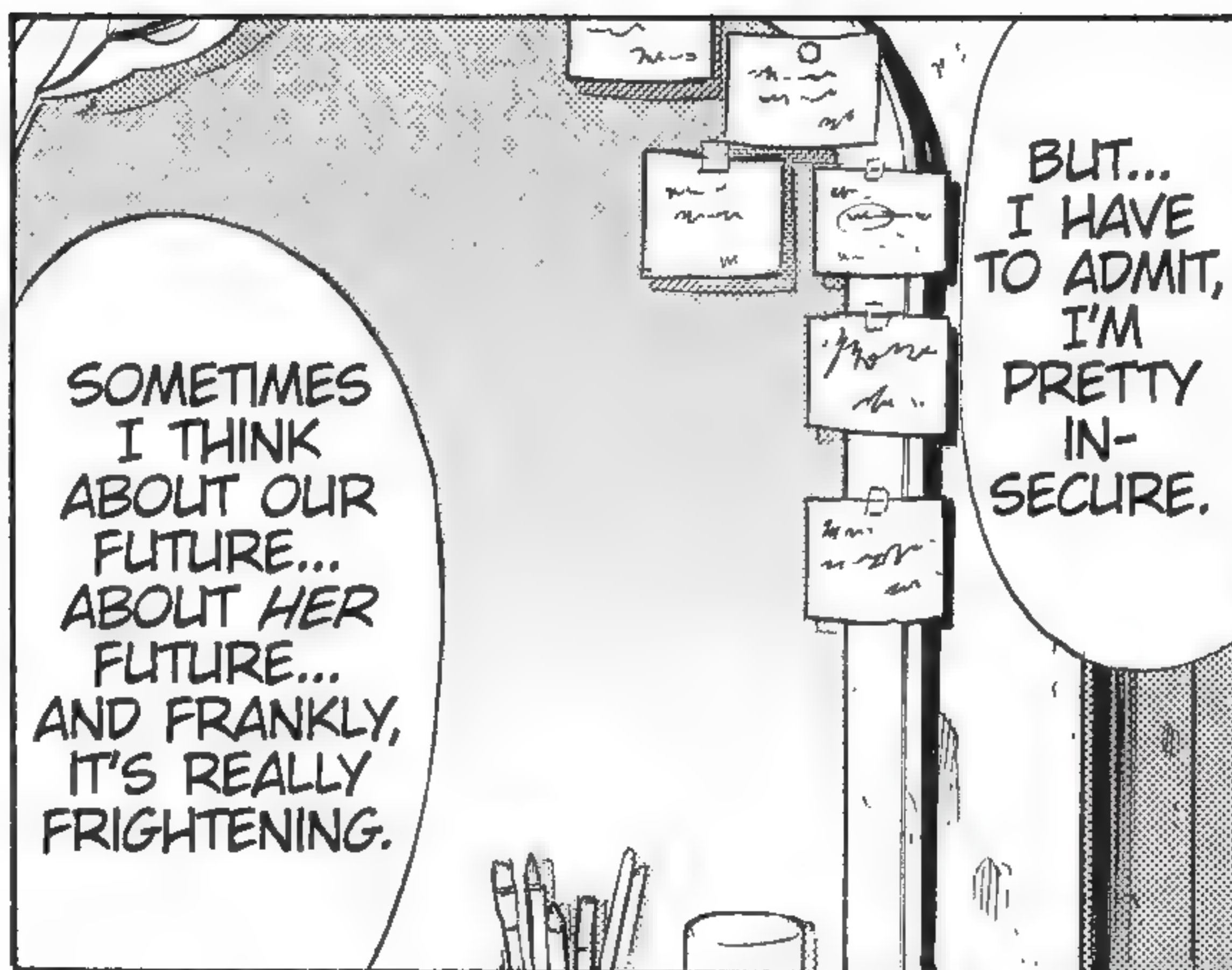
DO YOU EVER REGRET IT?

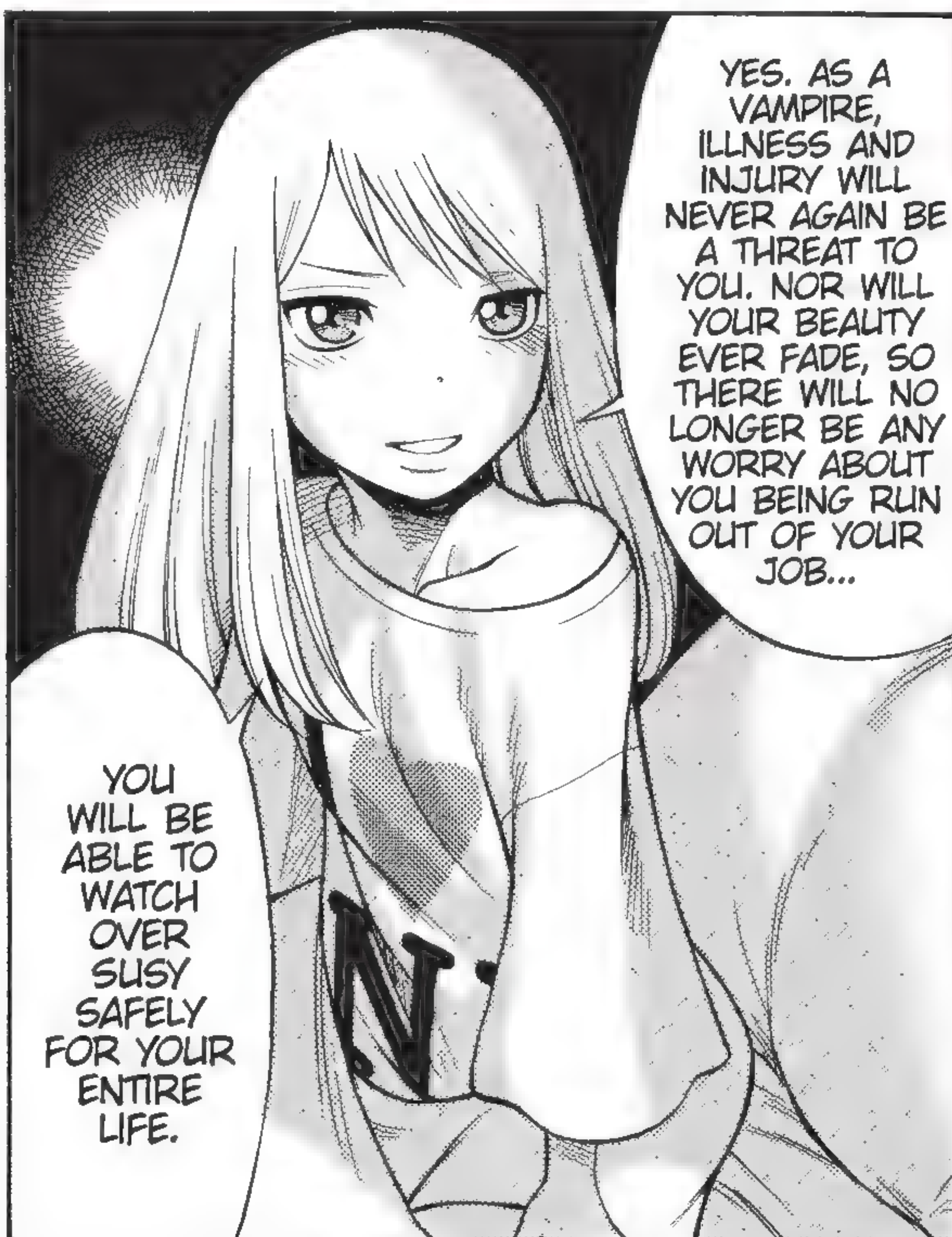
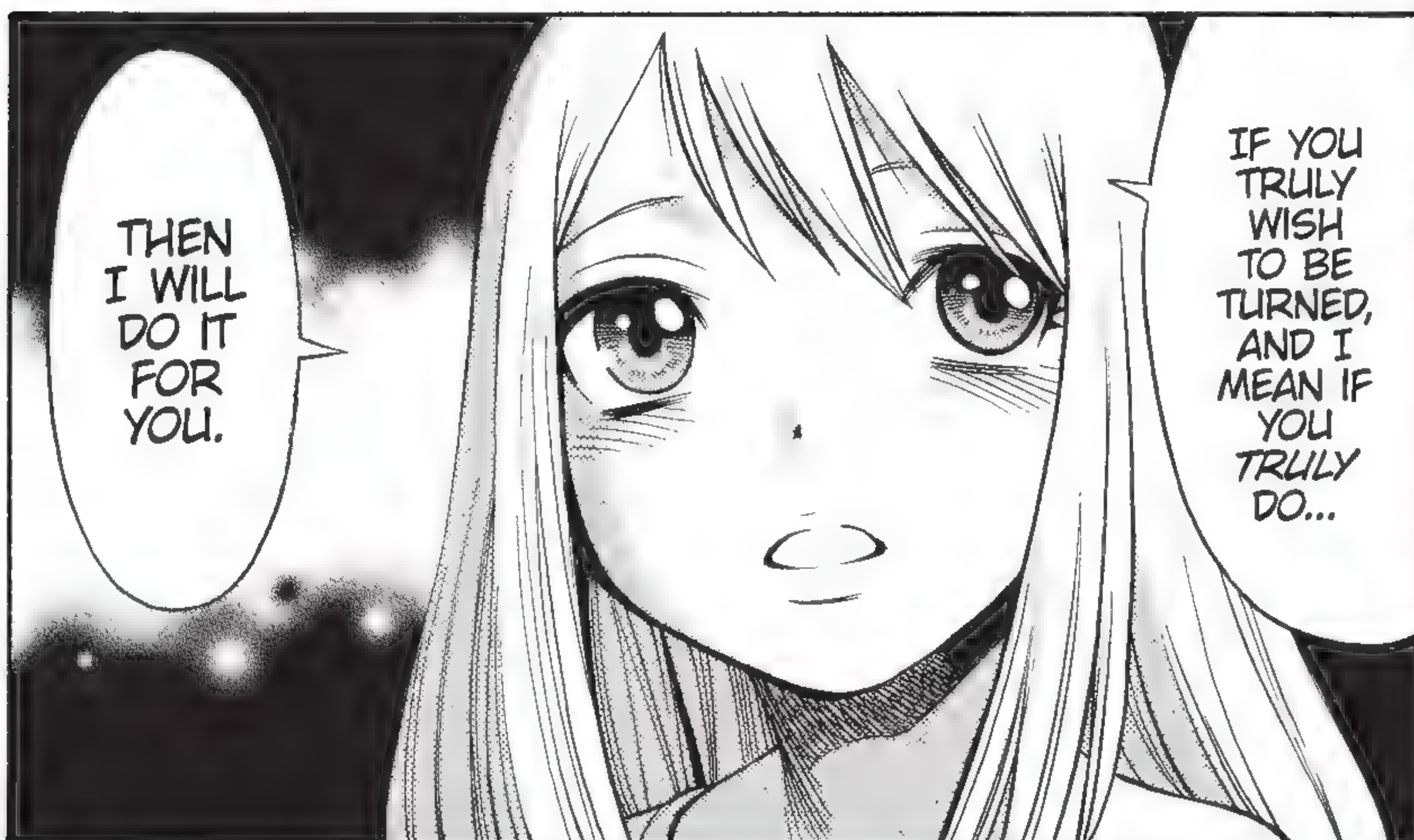
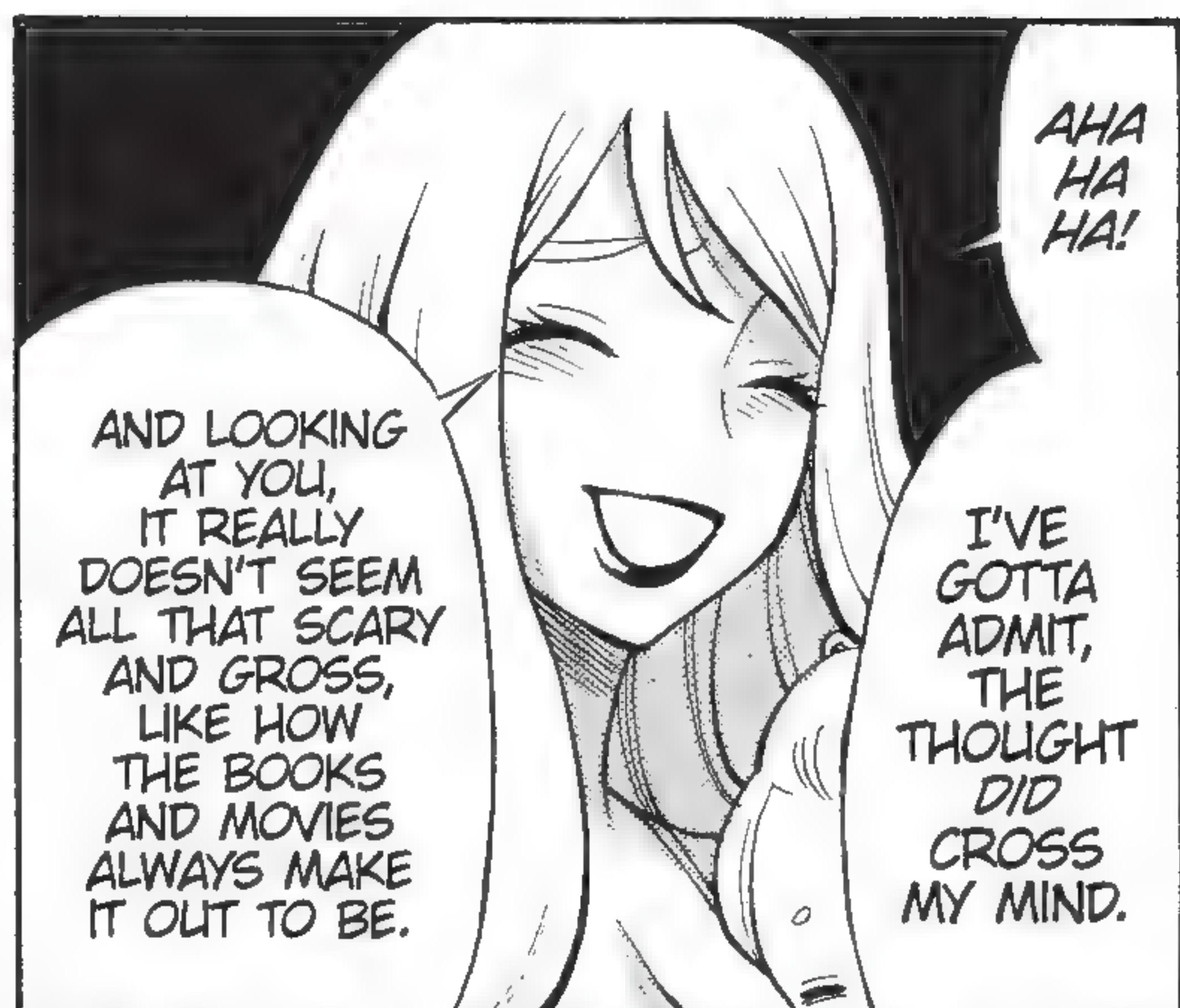
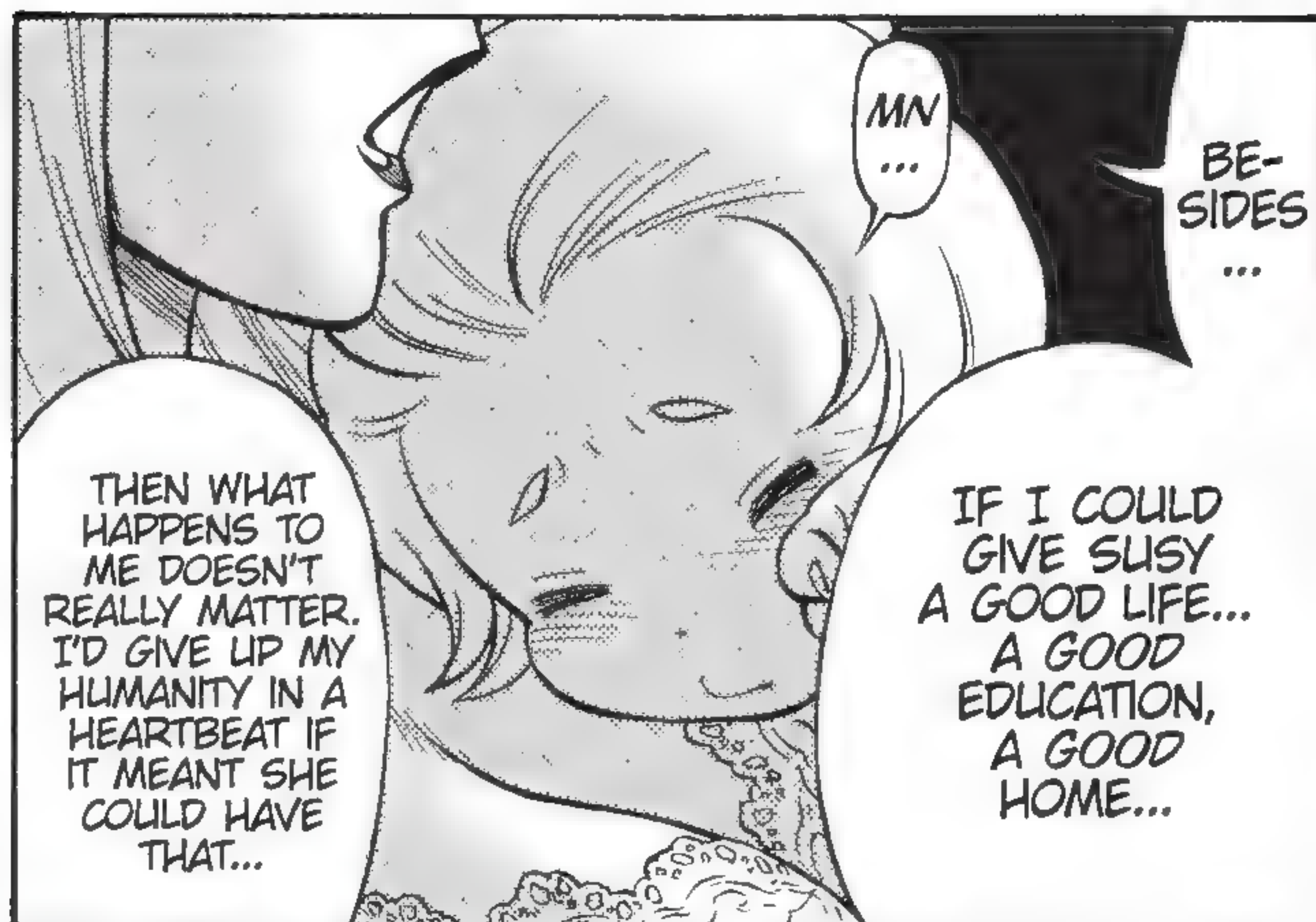


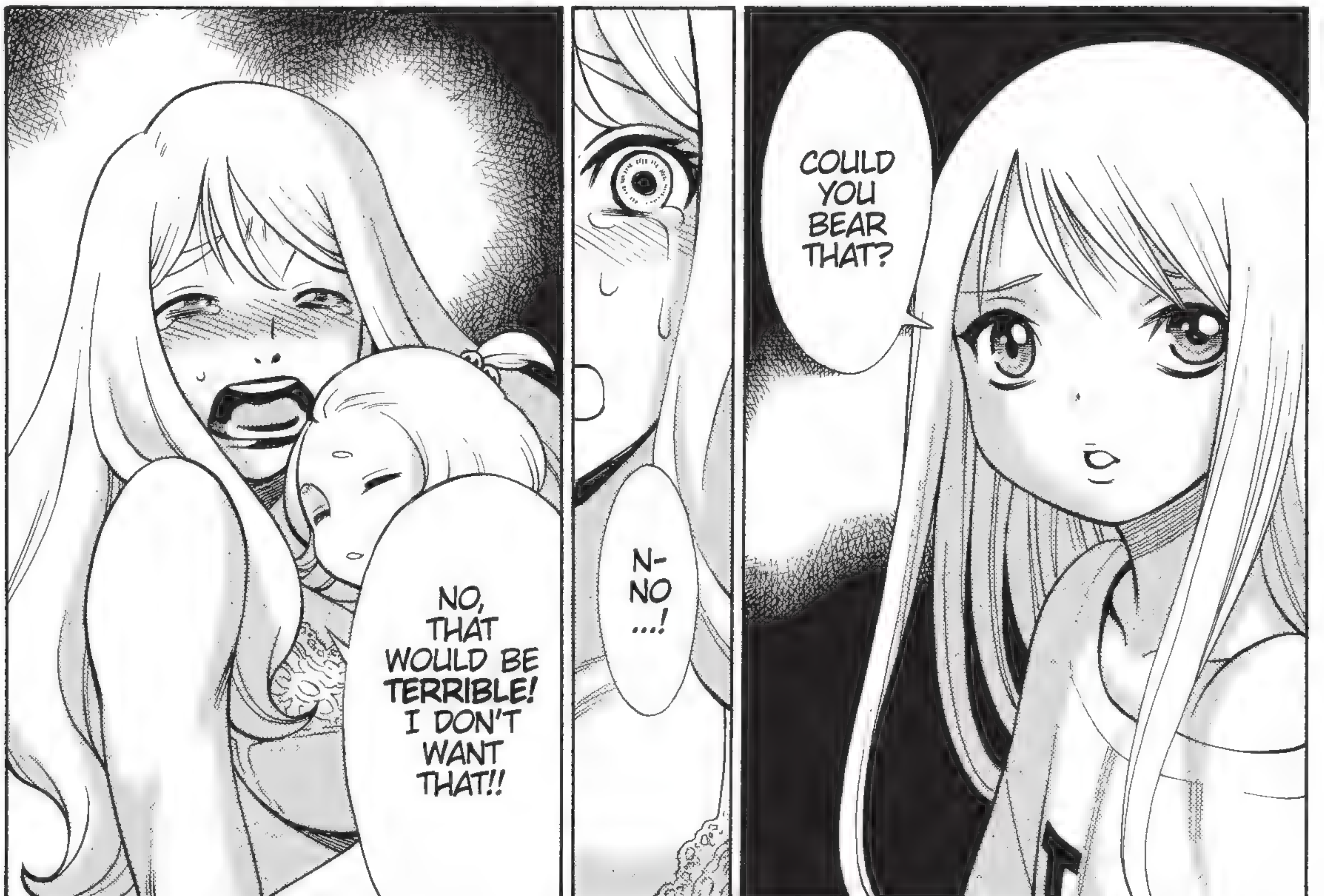
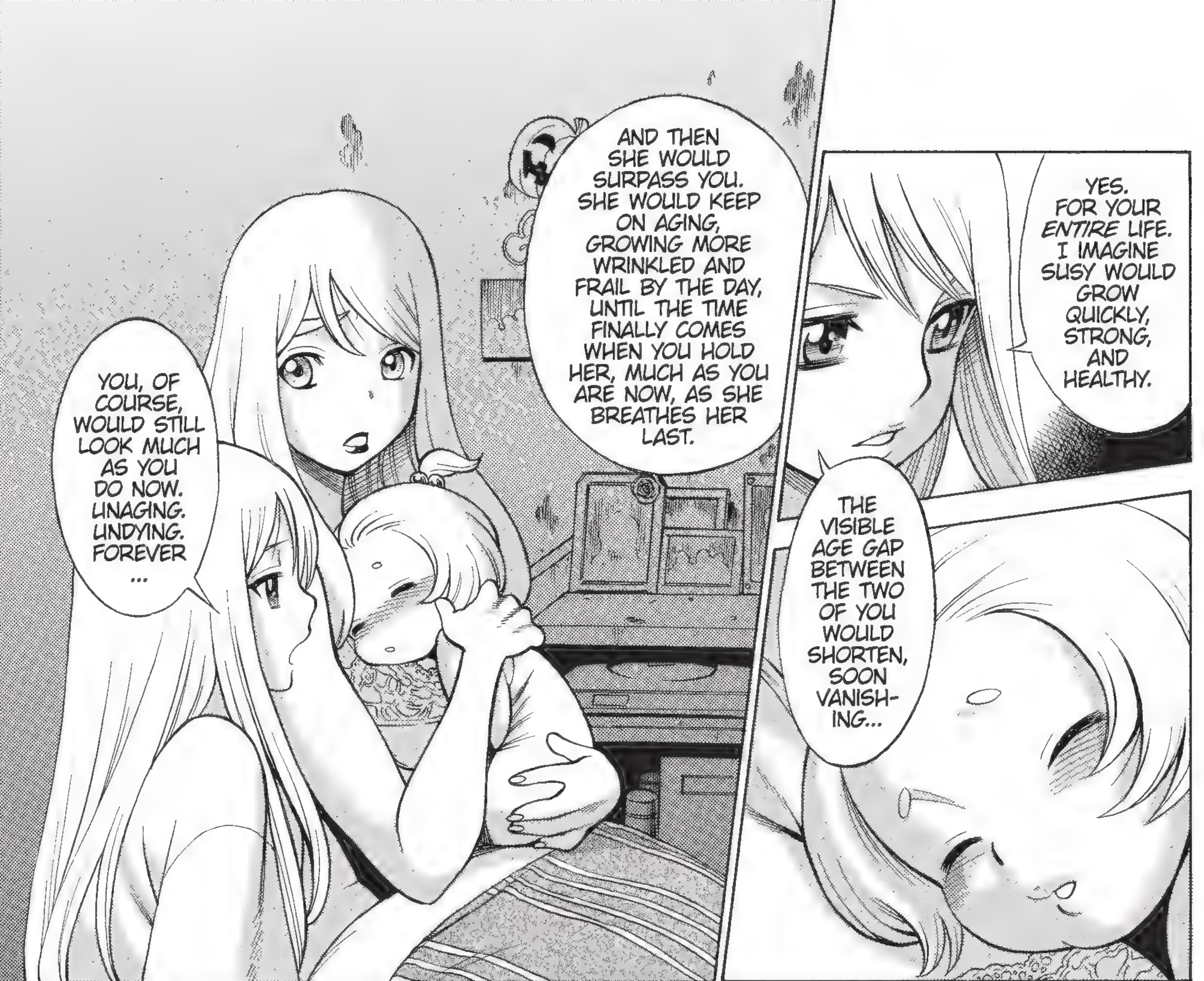
JUST THE TWO OF US.

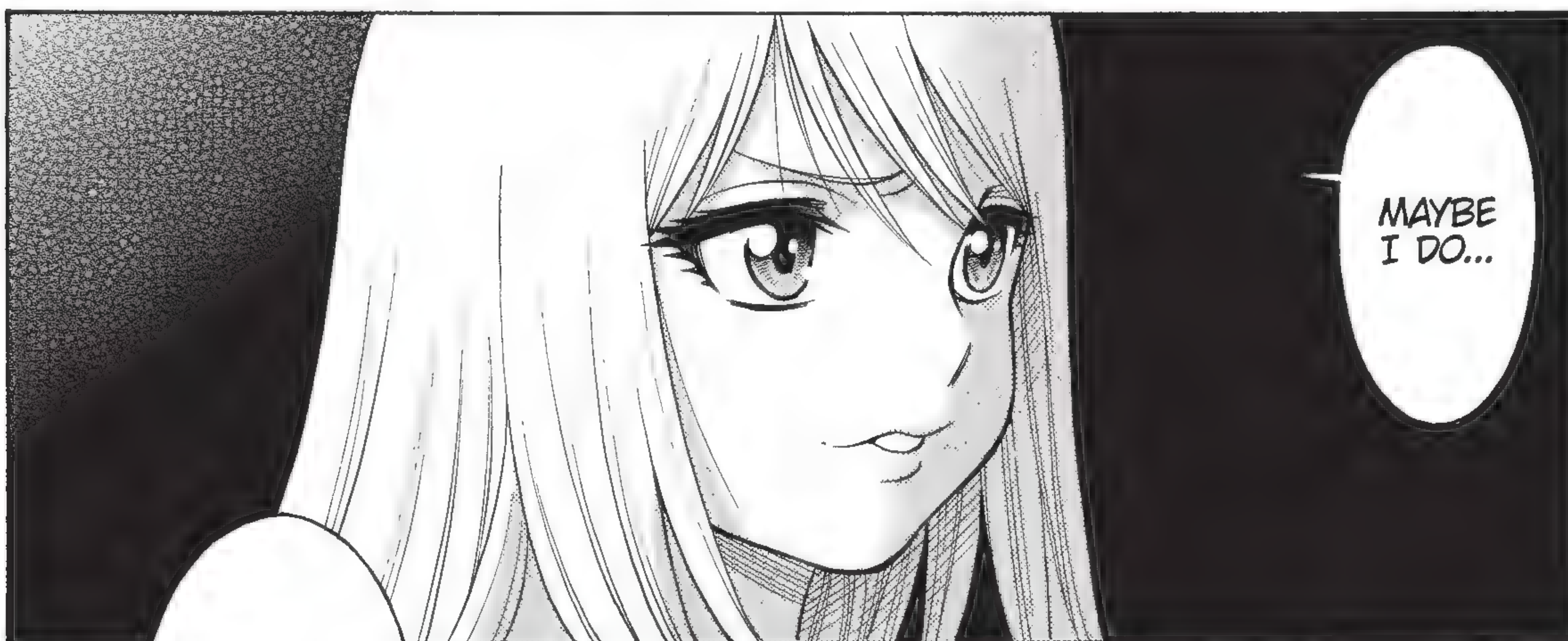
IT'S BEEN JUST THE TWO OF US EVER SINCE.

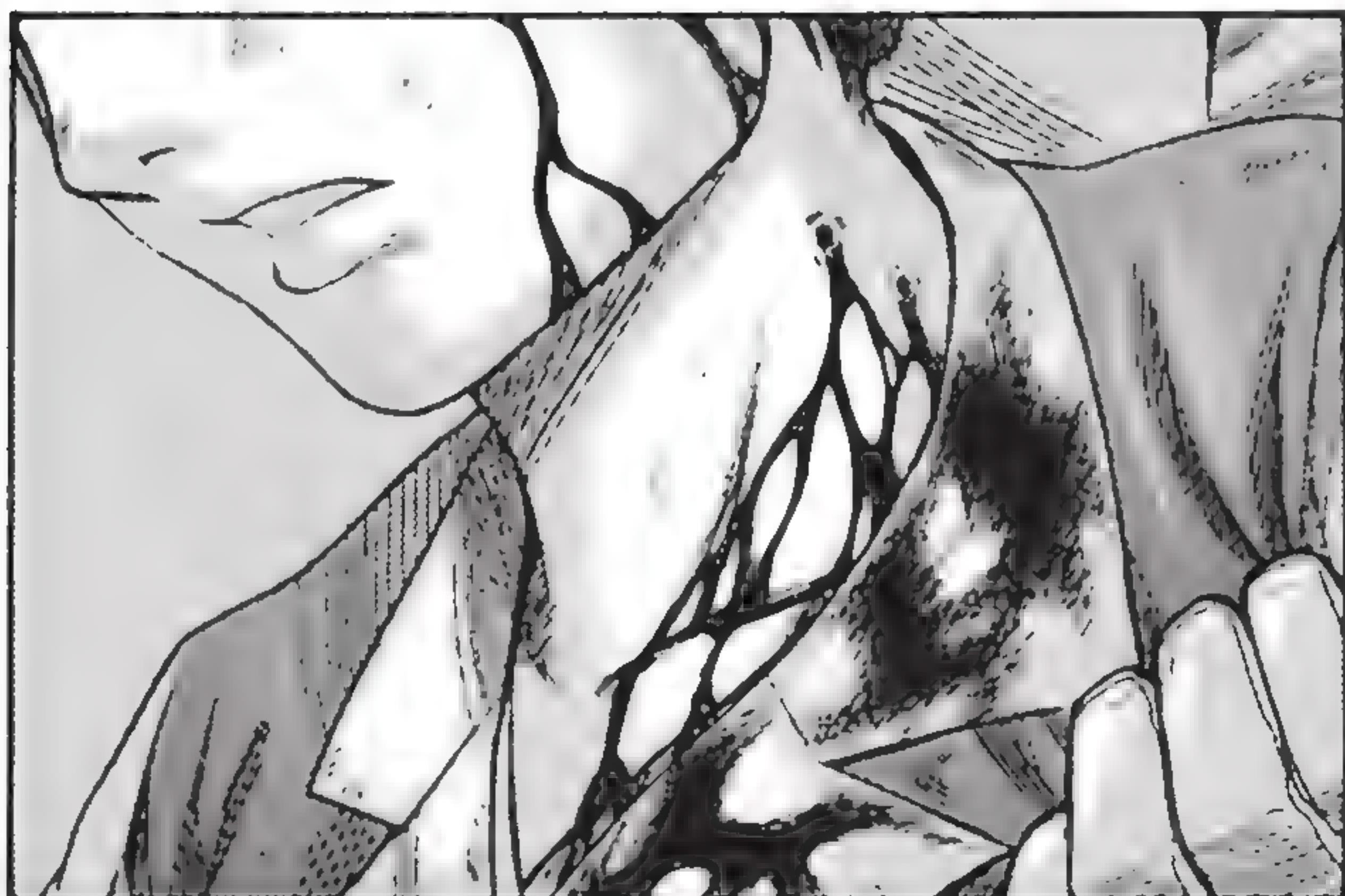
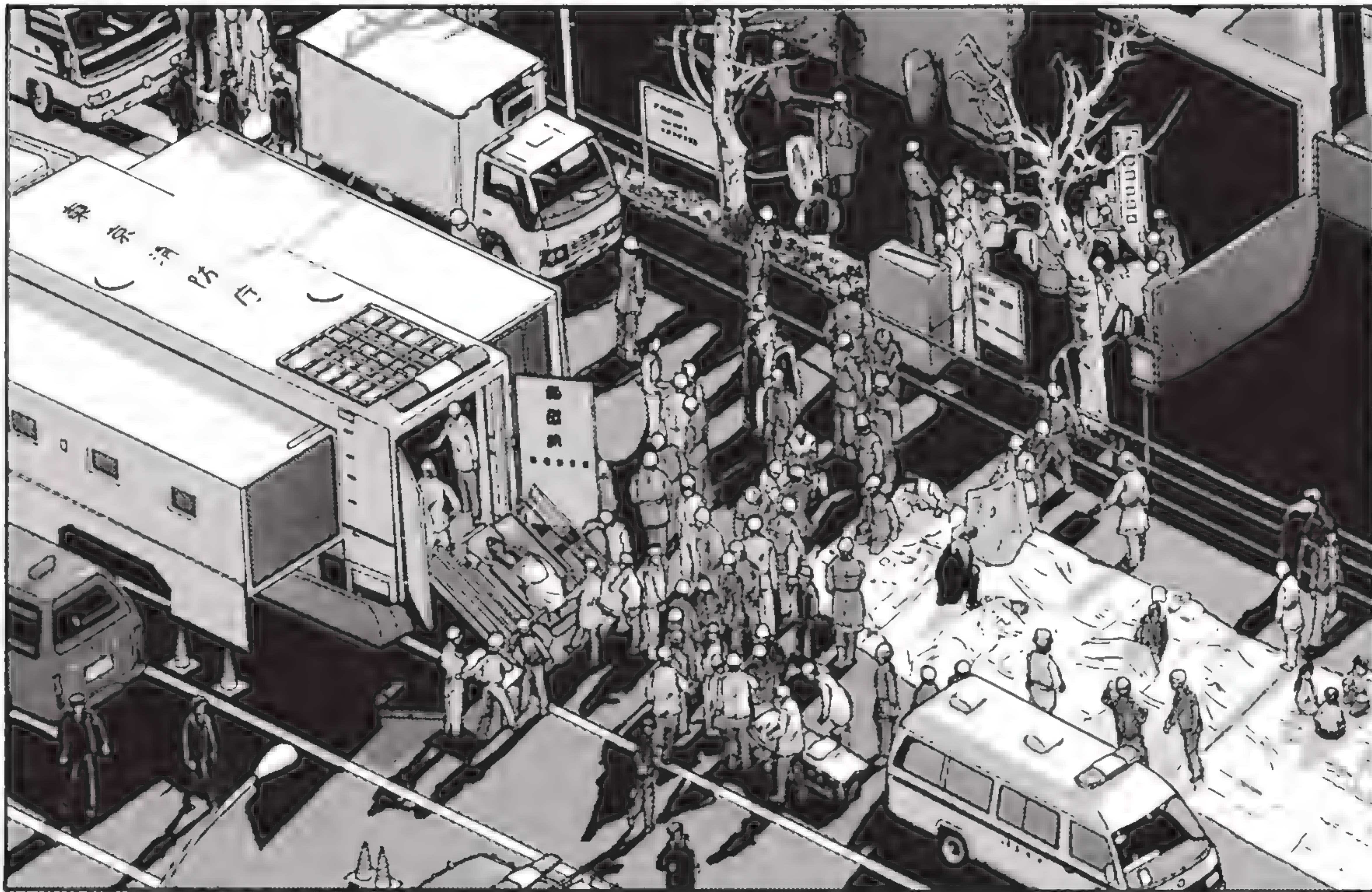
KISS
♡





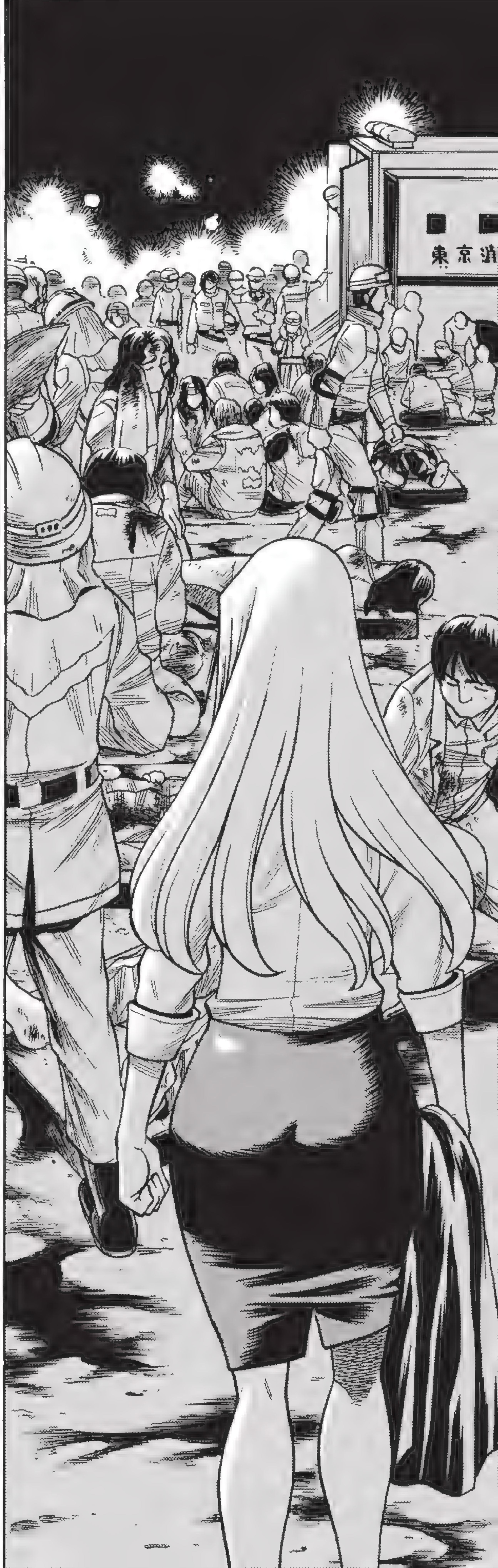
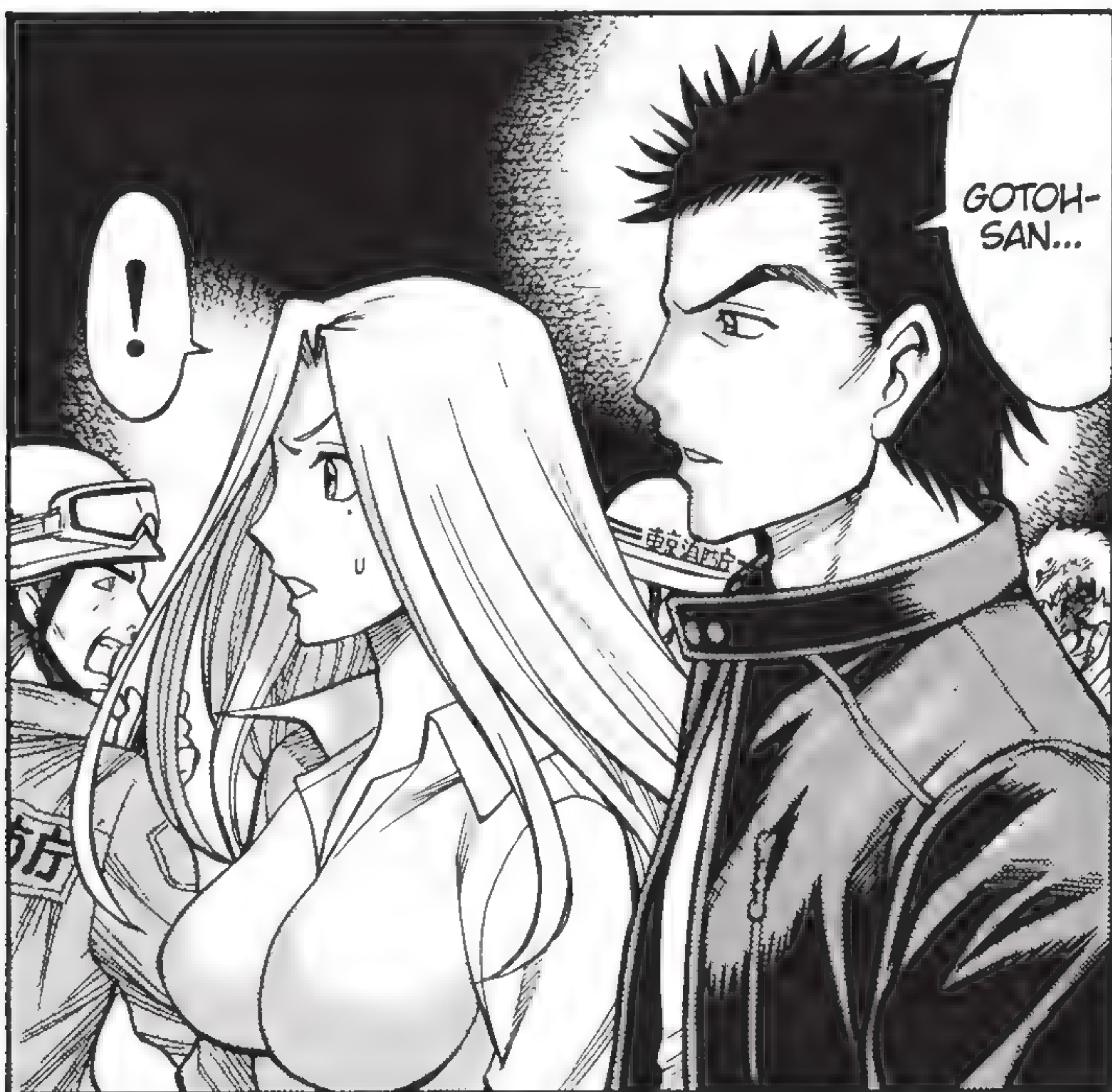
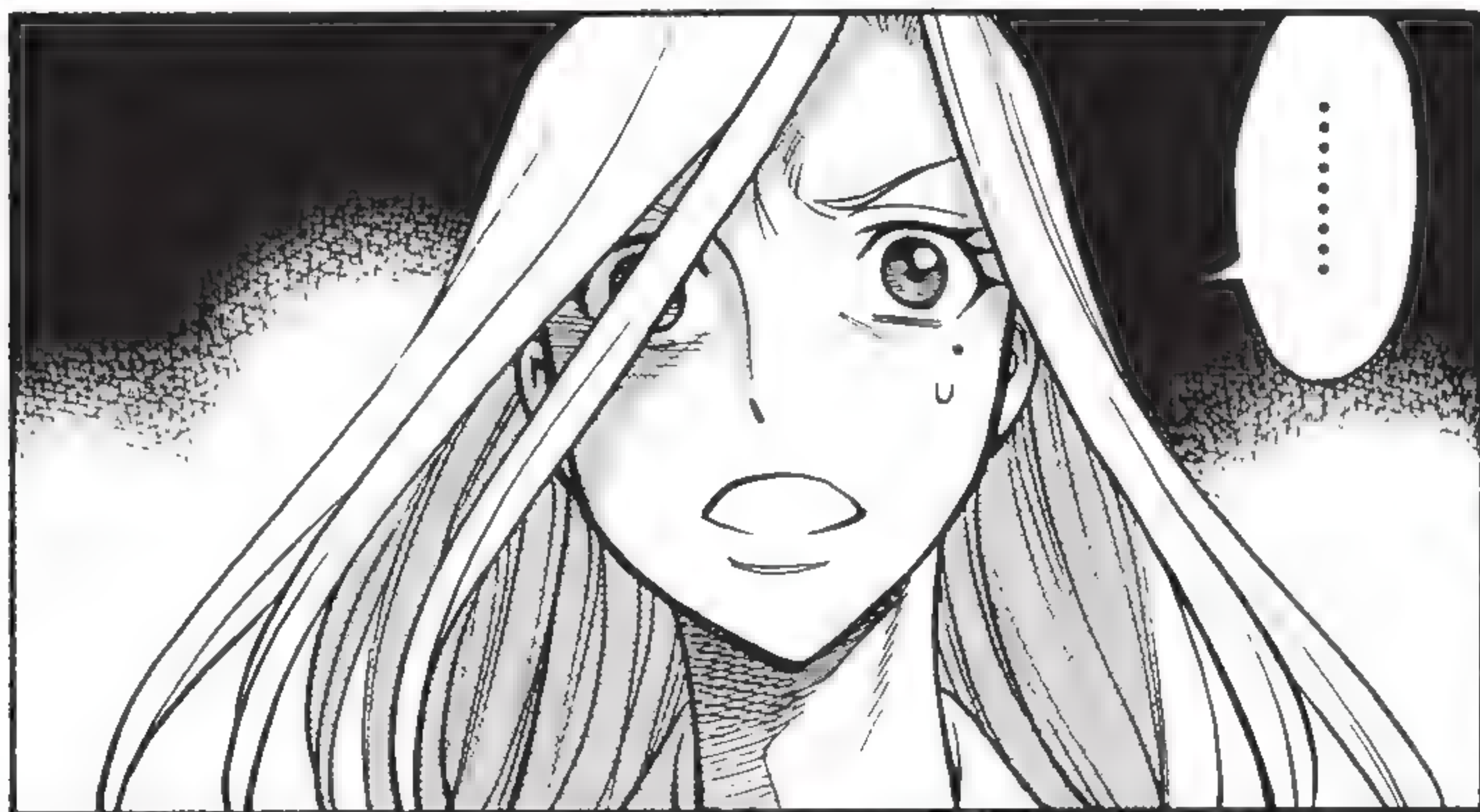








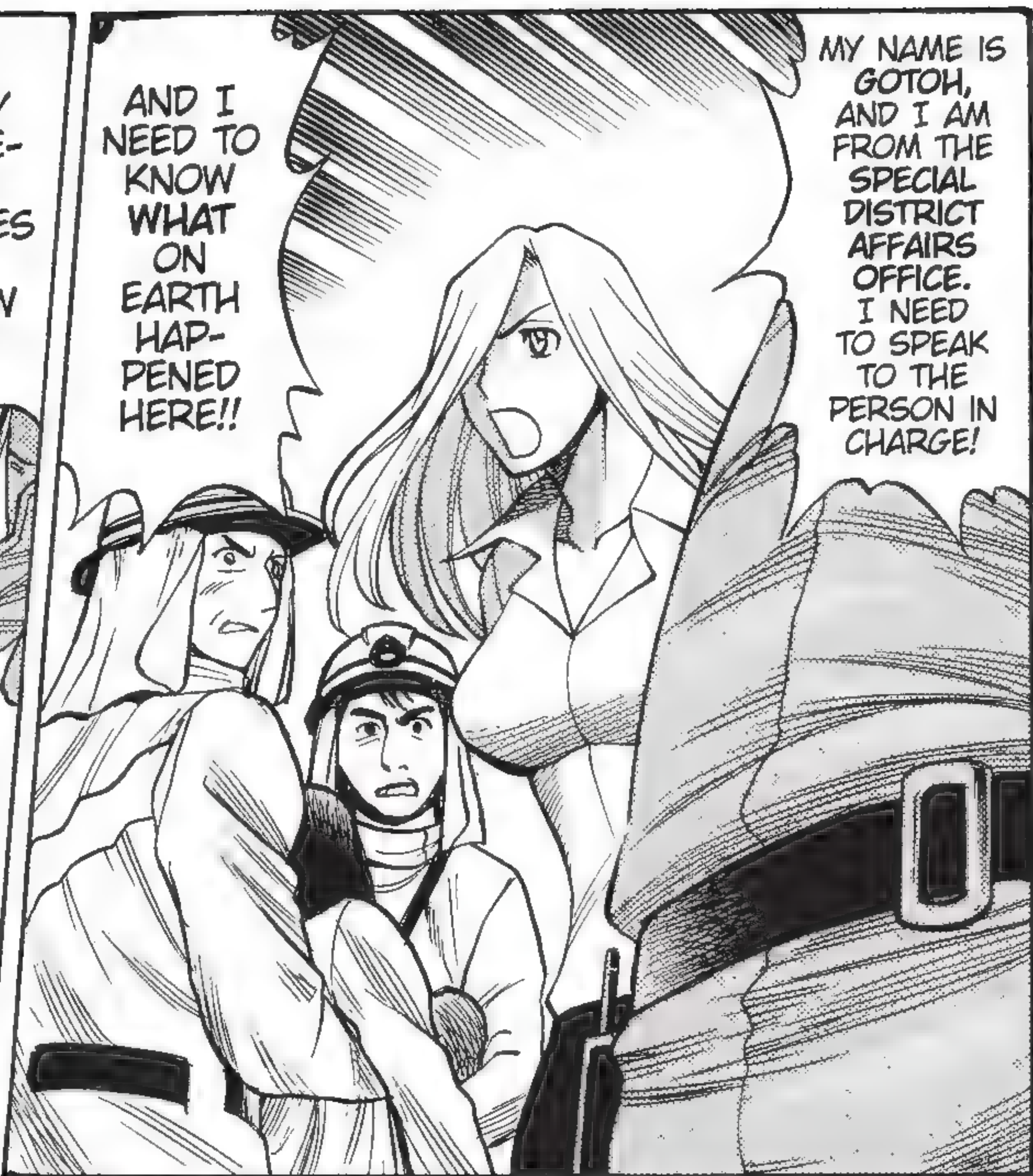






OH,
NOW
SOME-
ONE
DECIDES
TO
SHOW
UP!!

CAN'T YOU
TELL WHAT
HAPPENED
JUST BY
LOOKING
AROUND?
IT SHOULD
BE PRETTY
DAMN
OBVIOUS!!



MY NAME IS
GOTOH,
AND I AM
FROM THE
SPECIAL
DISTRICT
AFFAIRS
OFFICE.
I NEED
TO SPEAK
TO THE
PERSON IN
CHARGE!

AND I
NEED TO
KNOW
WHAT
ON
EARTH
HAP-
PENED
HERE!!



THERE
IS A
VACCINE
THAT CAN
CURE
VAMPIRE
BITES,
AND IT IS
ON ITS
WAY
HERE,
RIGHT
NOW.

NONE
OF THE
VICTIMS
HERE WILL
BE TURNED
INTO
VAMPIRES.
THEY WILL
BE FINE!!



I THOUGHT IT
WAS YOU GUYS'
JOB TO KEEP
THOSE MONSTERS
PENNED UP ON
THEIR ISLAND,
AWAY FROM THE
REST OF US!
DID SOMEBODY
FALL ASLEEP AT
THE GATE OR
SOMETHING
?!

HOW
COULD YOU
LET THEM
JUST WALTZ
OVER HERE
AND TURN
AN UNDER-
GROUND
SHOPPING
MALL INTO A
SNACK
BAR?!



WHAT
OF THE
VAMPIRES
INVOLVED
IN THE
ASSAULT?
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THEM?!



DIDN'T THE TOKYO POLICE SEND YOU ANY WARNING OF THAT?!

YOU SHOULD'VE RECEIVED A MESSAGE THAT SAID YOU WERE NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, TO TRY A COUNTER-STRIKE UNTIL WE ARRIVED TO ADVISE YOU!



ES-
CAPED INTO THE SEWERS!

YOU DID WHAT?!

I SENT SOME OF MY MEN DOWN IN AFTER THEM, BUT THOSE FREAKS MOPPED THE DAMN FLOOR WITH THEM!!



YEAH! ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT WE'RE JUST SUPPOSED TO SIT ON OUR THUMBS AND DO NOTHING TO SAVE THEM?!

EXCUSE ME, MA'AM, BUT THERE ARE STILL CIVILIANS TRAPPED ON THE LOWEST FLOORS!!



NOT ONLY THAT, THE VAMPIRES ARE HIDING IN AN ABSOLUTE MAZE OF TUNNELS, WHERE NO SUNLIGHT WILL EVER REACH THEM.

RUNNING INTO THAT IS SUICIDE!

STANDARD SAT EQUIPMENT IS NORMAL ANTI-PERSONNEL GEAR. IT WILL DO NOTHING TO VAMPIRES !!

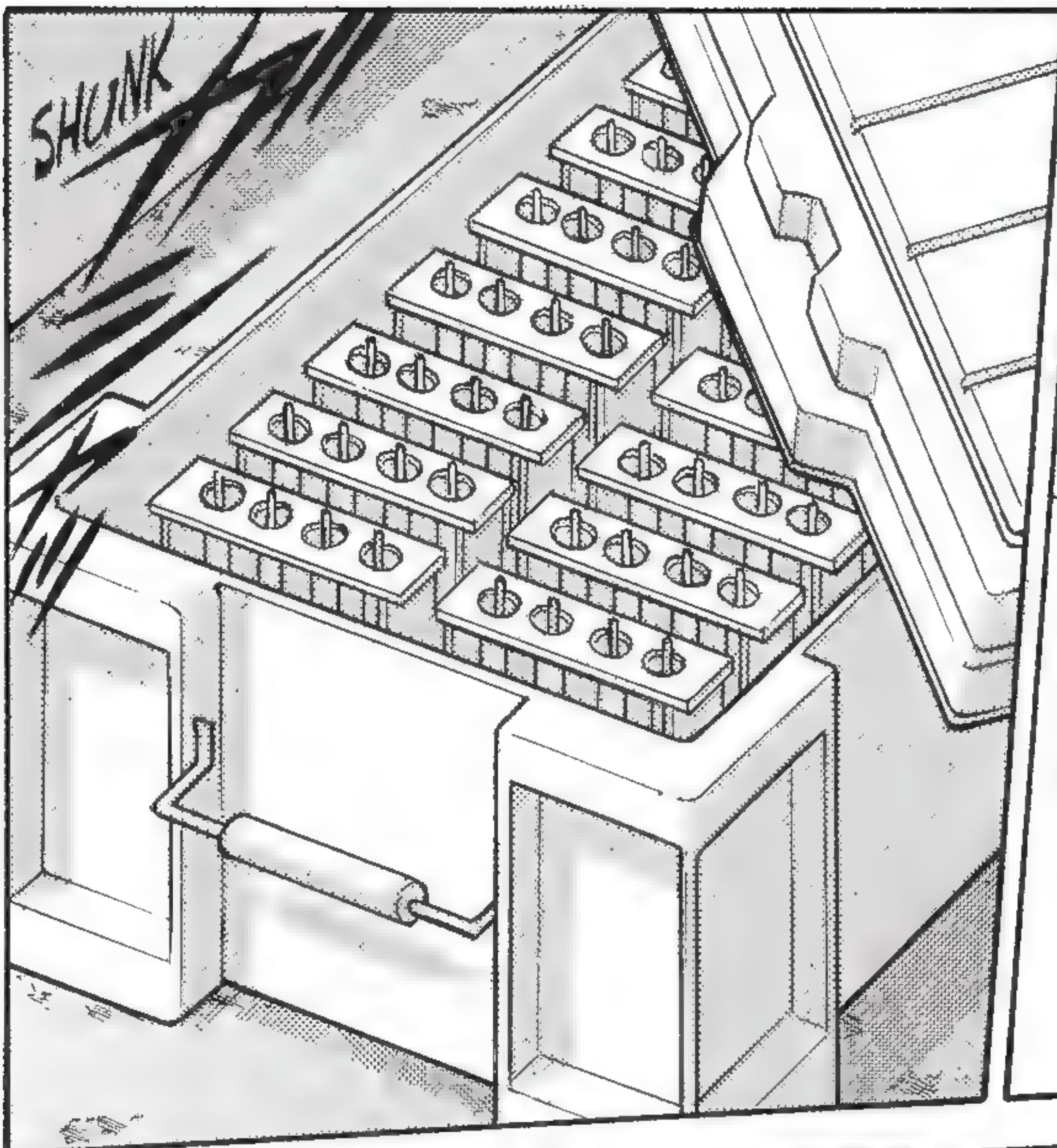


I'VE ALREADY SENT A REQUEST TO THE TOKYO POLICE CHIEF FOR PERMISSION TO DEPLOY A SAT* TEAM.

YOU WILL DO NOTHING OF THE SORT !!

WE WILL BEGIN PLANNING OUR NEXT ATTACK THE VERY SECOND THEY ARRIVE!!

**"SAT" stands for Special Assault Team. Think SWAT team.



UH,
I'M FROM
THE
MINISTRY
OF HEALTH,
LABOR AND
WELFARE!
I HAVE THE
VACCINE!!

SO
WHAT
THE
HELL
ARE
WE
SUP-
POSED
TO DO,
THEN
?!!



WHAT?!!
NONE OF
THE
REPORTS
WE
RECEIVED
SAID
ANYTHING
ABOUT
THAT!!

THE BUND
GENERALLY
DONATES A
CONTAINER
OF VACCINE
TO THE
MINISTRY
EVERY THREE
MONTHS.
THIS IS THE
ENTIRETY OF
THE LATEST
BATCH WE
RECEIVED
FROM
THEM.

WELL,
ALL THAT'S
STILL USEABLE
FROM THAT
BATCH, ANYWAY.
EVERYTHING
ELSE WE HAVE
IS PAST ITS
EXPIRATION
DATE...

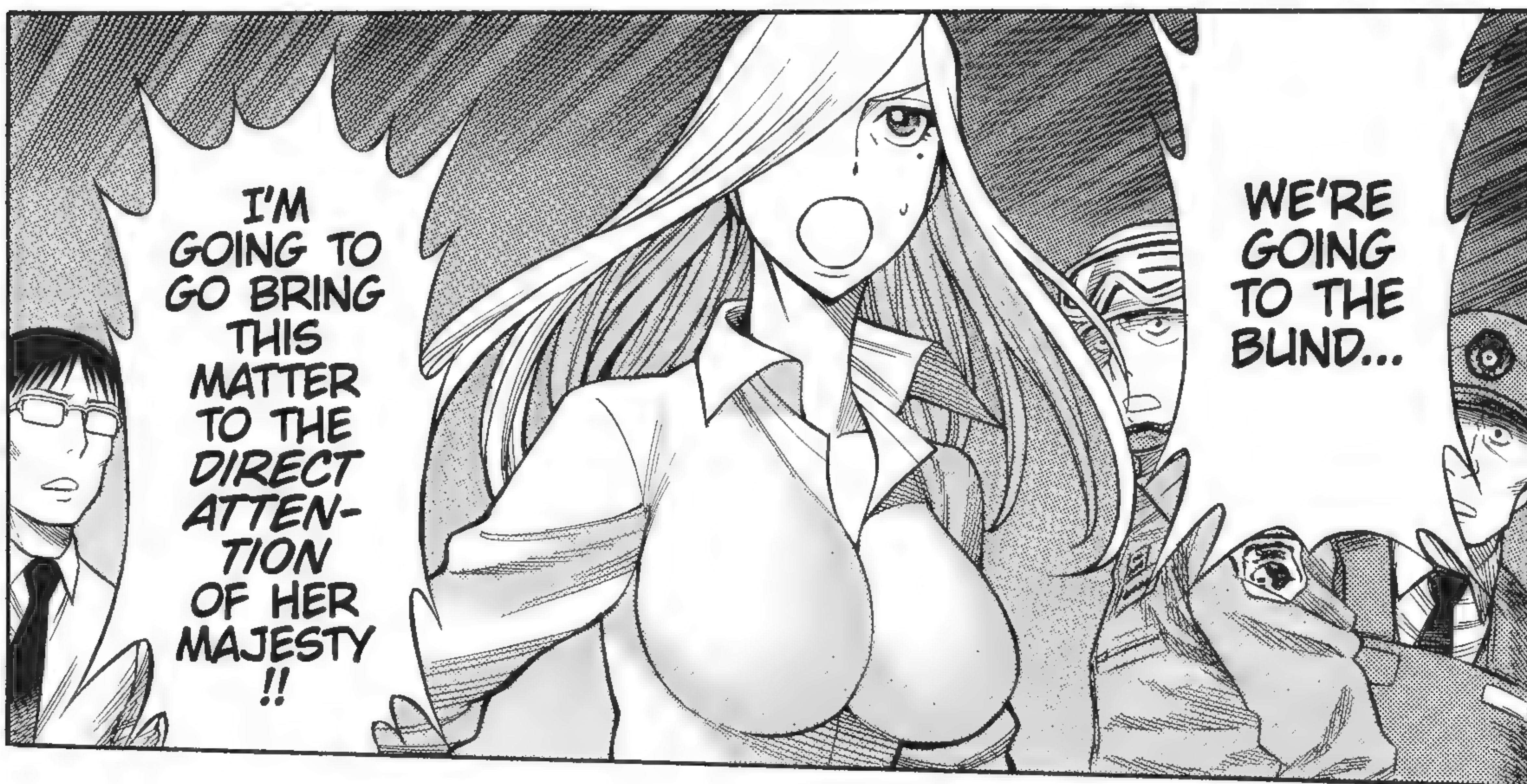
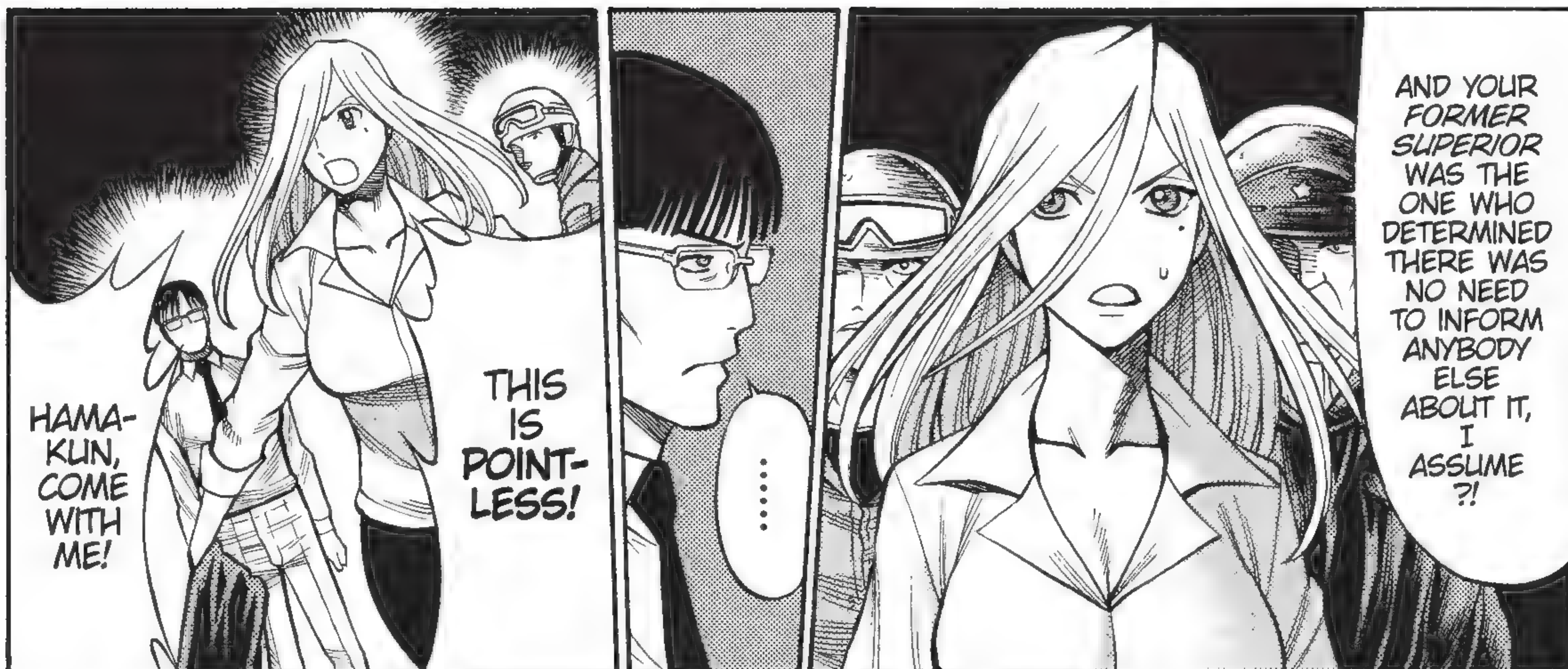


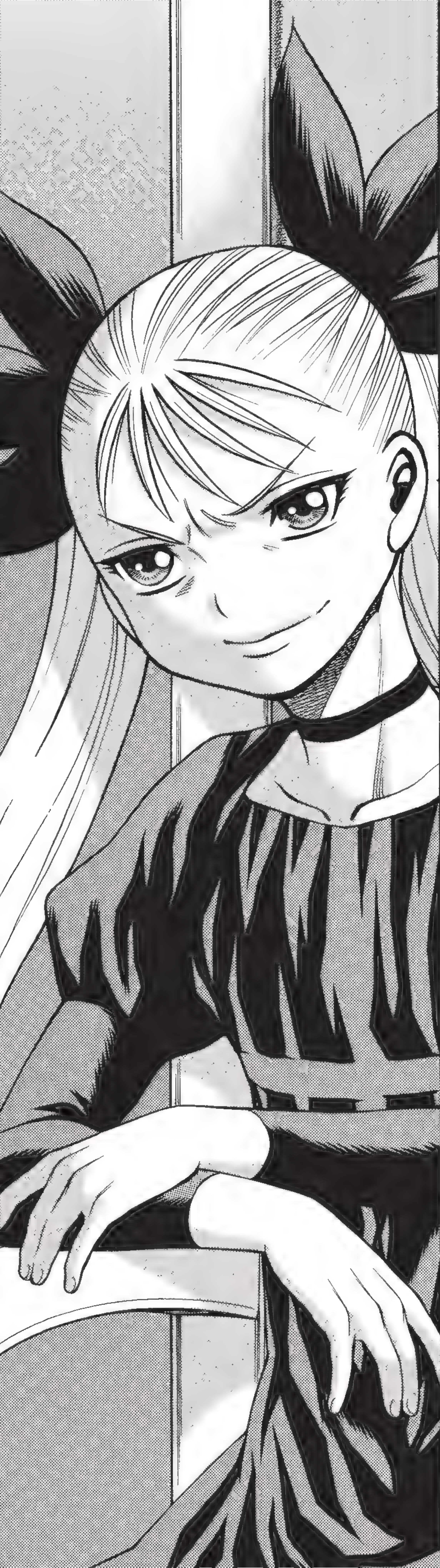
WELL,
WE'VE
GOT OVER
**THREE
HUNDRED**
VICTIMS!
NOW
WHAT?!

THERE
ISN'T
EVEN
ENOUGH
FOR A
HUNDRED
PEOPLE
IN
HERE...



THAT IS
BECAUSE
ANYTHING
PERTAINING
TO THE
VAMPIRISM
VACCINE HAS
ALWAYS BEEN
WITHIN
THE SOLE
JURISDICTION
OF THE
MINISTRY OF
HEALTH...





INA-HIME
IS NOT R
SHE'S A F

TKK
TKK



NOW'S
MY
CHANCE.

EVERYONE'S
SO BUSY,
THEY'RE
NOT PAYING
ATTENTION
TO ME...

SEND

DRAFT

PI



PLEASE,
AKIRA-KUN.
YOU
HAVE TO
CATCH
ON.

THE
HIME-SAMA
THAT'S HERE
RIGHT NOW
ISN'T REALLY
OUR HIME-
SAMA....!



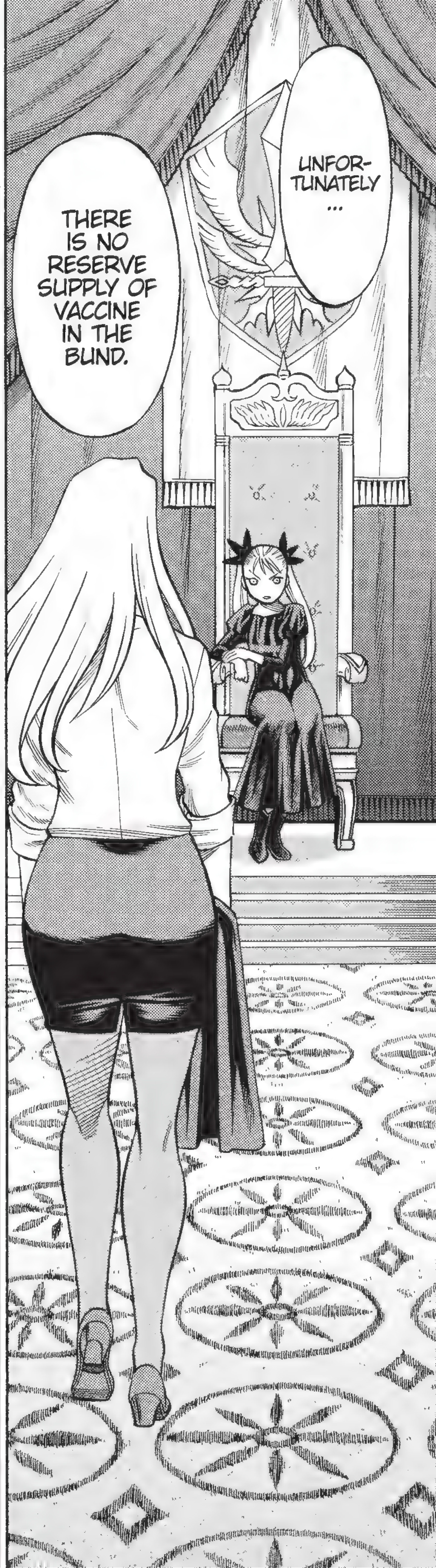
IT WAS
A FEW
MONTHS
AGO, I
BELIEVE.
YES...

IT
CAME TO OUR
ATTENTION THAT
SOMETHING WAS
CONTAMINATING
THE VACCINE
PRODUCED IN OUR
FACILITIES, WITH A
LARGE POSSIBILITY
OF SABOTAGE.
TO PREVENT
FURTHER
CONTAMINATED
VACCINE FROM
BEING
PRODUCED...



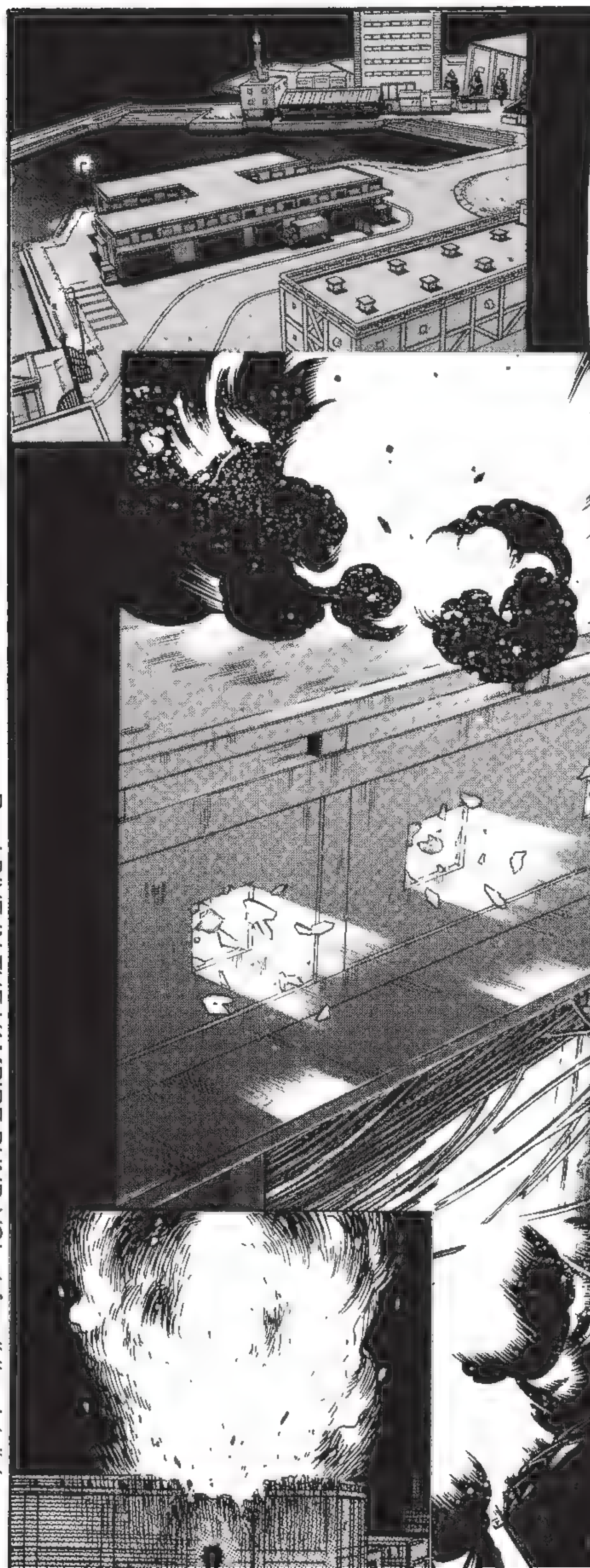
WHAT
...?

WHY?!
HOW
COULD
THAT
HAPPEN
?!



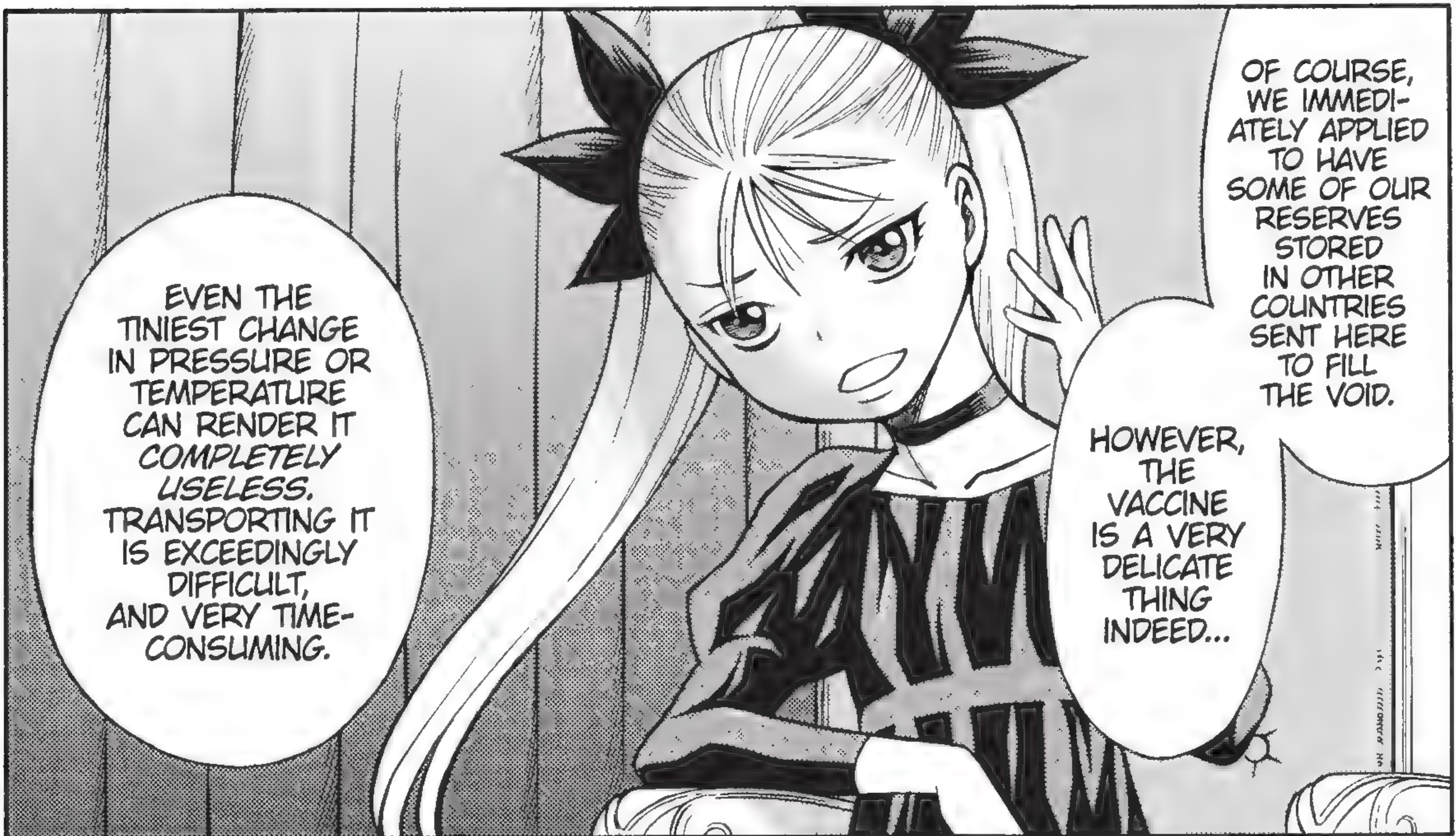
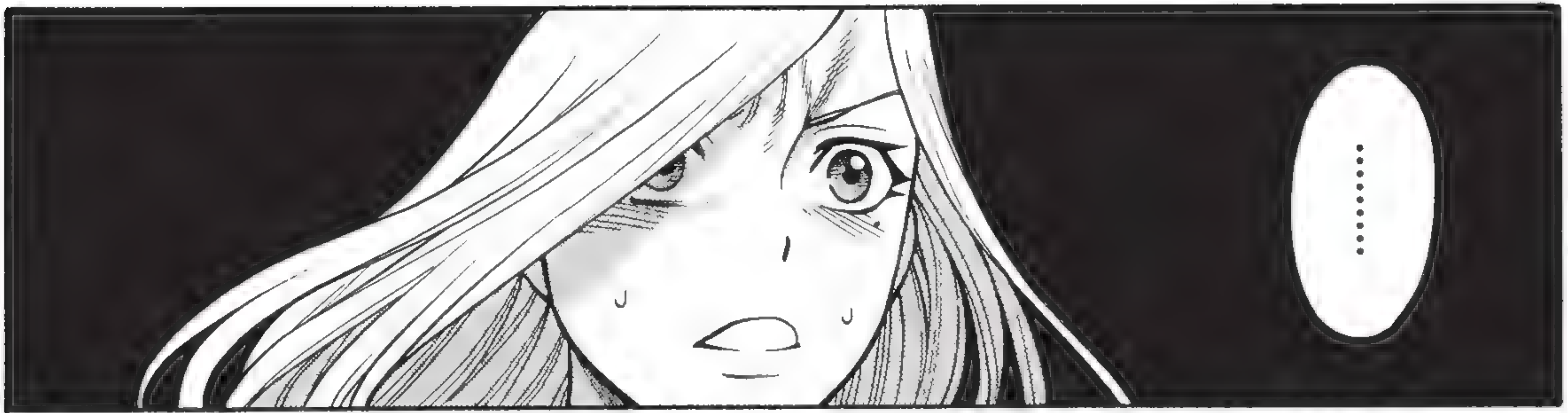
UNFOR-
TUNATELY
...

THERE
IS NO
RESERVE
SUPPLY OF
VACCINE
IN THE
BLIND.



THE ENTIRE FACILITY
WAS SHUT DOWN
UNTIL THE SOURCE
COULD BE LOCATED
AND ELIMINATED.
ONLY A FEW DAYS
LATER, A ROGUE
GANG BROKE INTO
THE WAREHOUSE
WHERE OUR
RESERVE WAS
STORED, LOOKING
FOR SOMETHING
OF VALUE TO
STEAL,
I'M SURE.

THEY WERE
DISCOVERED,
HOWEVER,
AND IN THEIR
PANIC, THEY
SET OFF
EXPLOSIVES...
THE ENTIRE
WAREHOUSE
BURNED TO
THE GROUND,
TAKING OUR
WHOLE
RESERVE
SUPPLY
WITH IT.



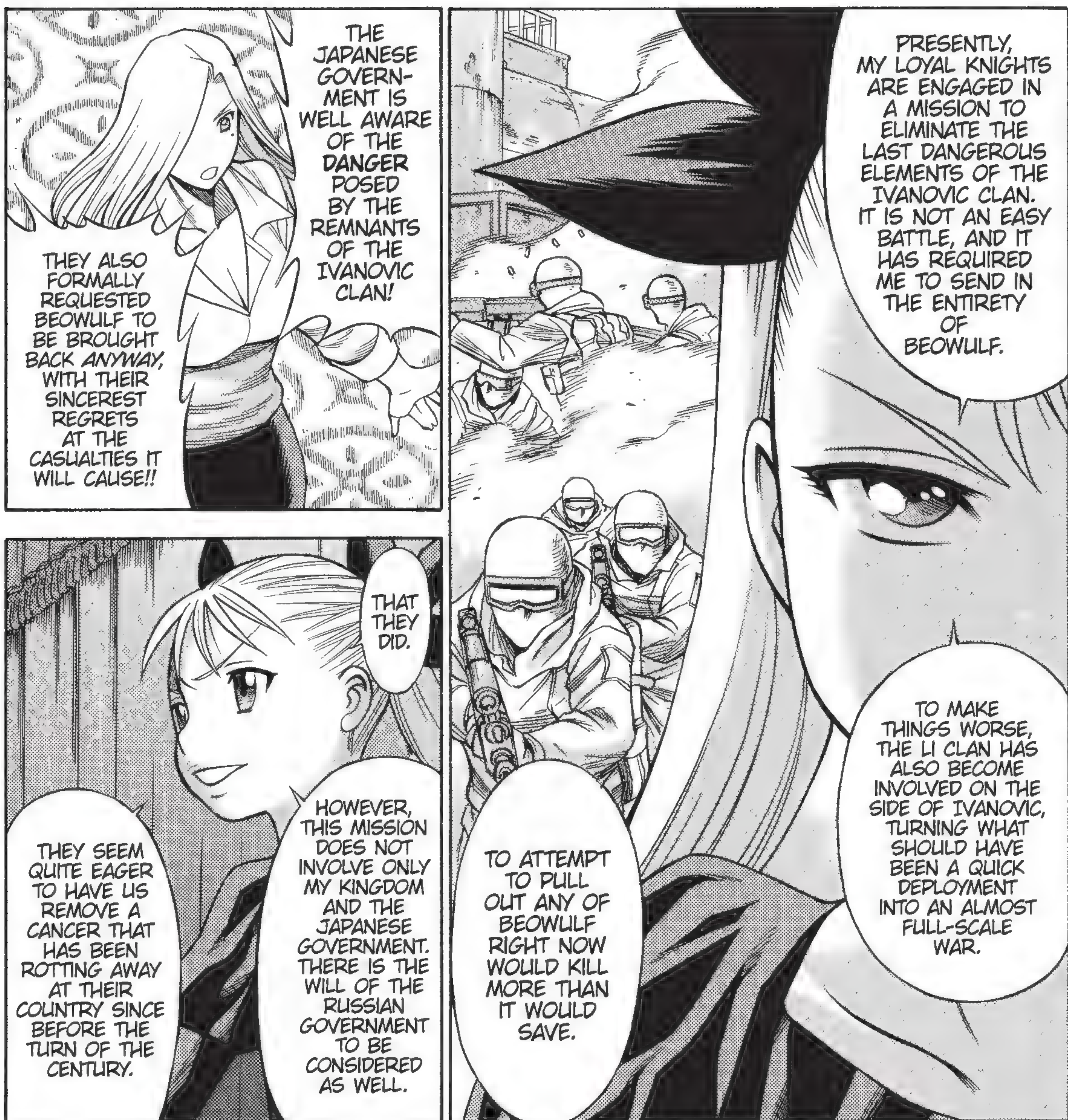


WHY
?!

I AM
AFRAID
THAT IS
ALSO IMPOS-
SIBLE.

I
FORMALLY
REQUEST
THE ASSIS-
TANCE OF
BEOWULF
IN TRACK-
ING DOWN
AND DE-
STROYING
THE ROGUE
VAMPIRES!

YOUR
MAJESTY,
TO PREVENT
THIS
INCIDENT
FROM
CREATING
EVEN
MORE...
CASUALTIES,
AS YOU
PUT IT,
SWIFT
ACTION
MUST BE
TAKEN!!



THEY ALSO
FORMALLY
REQUESTED
BEOWULF TO
BE BROUGHT
BACK ANYWAY,
WITH THEIR
SINCEREST
REGRETS
AT THE
CASUALTIES IT
WILL CAUSE!!

THE
JAPANESE
GOVERN-
MENT IS
WELL AWARE
OF THE
DANGER
POSED
BY THE
REMNANTS
OF THE
IVANOVIC
CLAN!

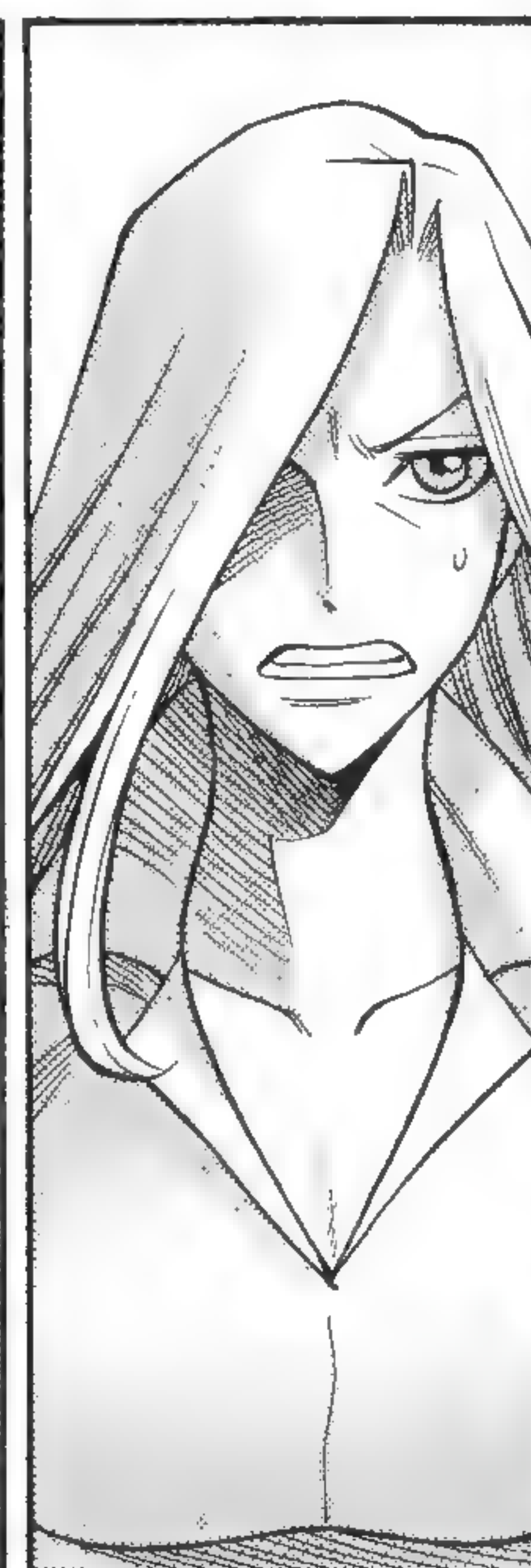
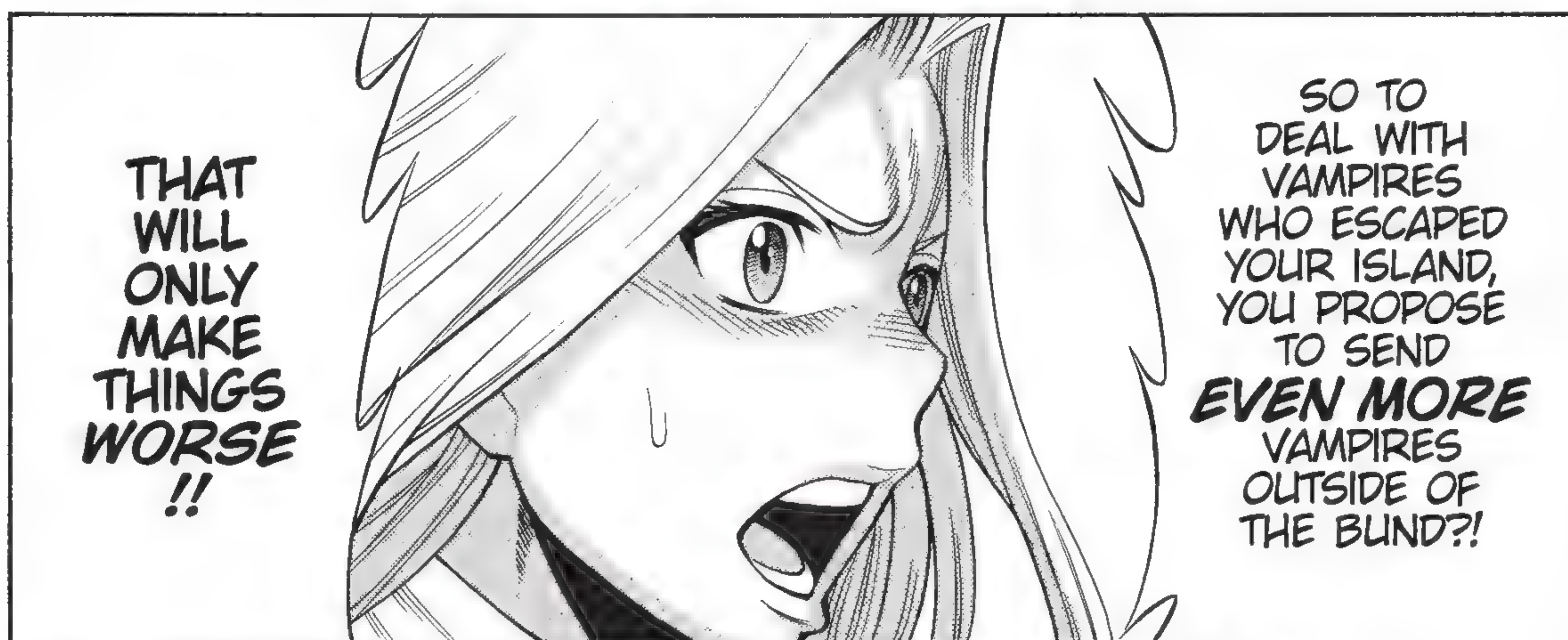
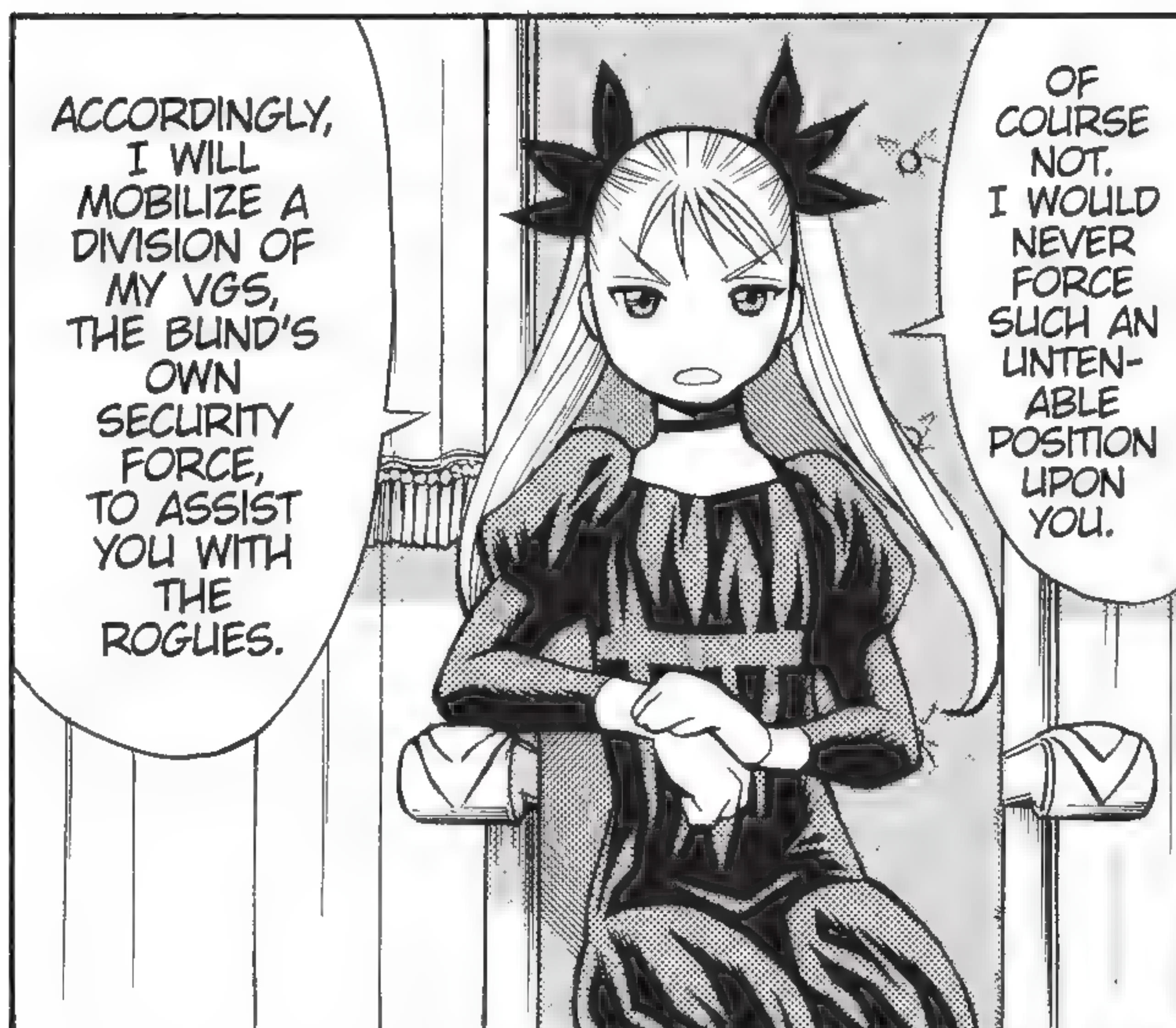
PRESENTLY,
MY LOYAL KNIGHTS
ARE ENGAGED IN
A MISSION TO
ELIMINATE THE
LAST DANGEROUS
ELEMENTS OF THE
IVANOVIC CLAN.
IT IS NOT AN EASY
BATTLE, AND IT
HAS REQUIRED
ME TO SEND IN
THE ENTIRETY
OF
BEOWULF.

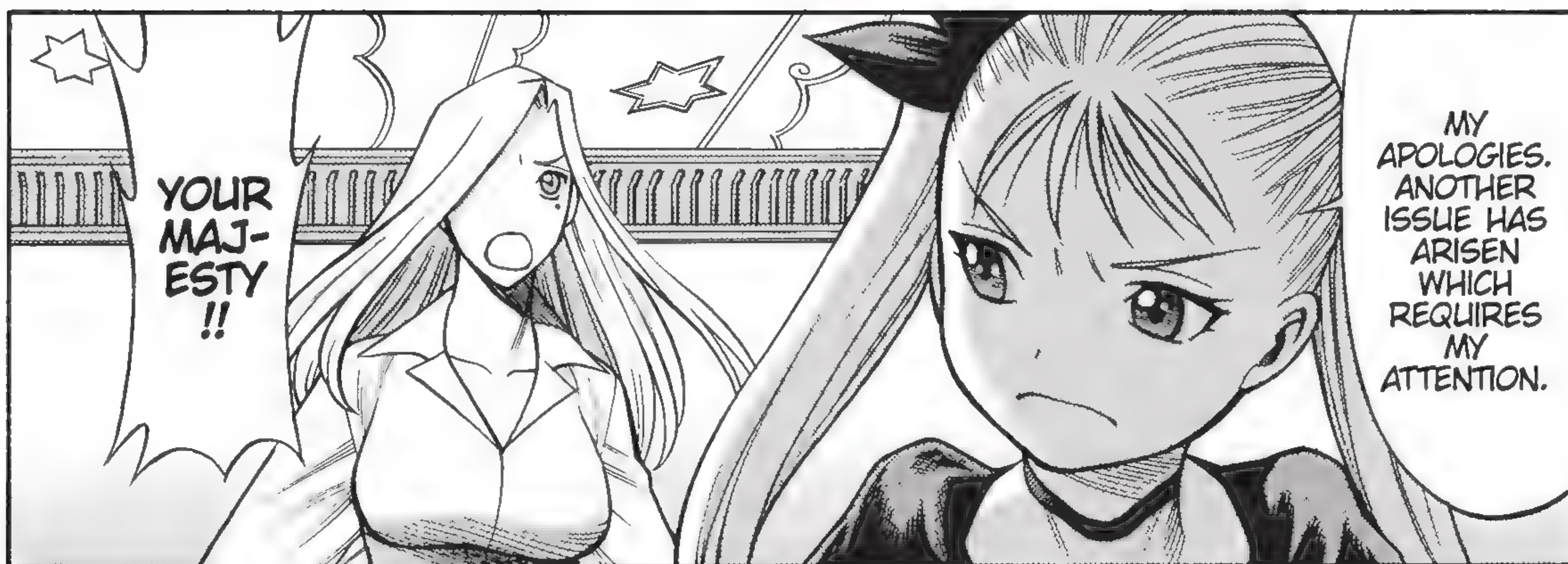
THEY SEEM
QUITE EAGER
TO HAVE US
REMOVE A
CANCER THAT
HAS BEEN
ROTTING AWAY
AT THEIR
COUNTRY SINCE
BEFORE THE
TURN OF THE
CENTURY.

HOWEVER,
THIS MISSION
DOES NOT
INVOLVE ONLY
MY KINGDOM
AND THE
JAPANESE
GOVERNMENT.
THERE IS THE
WILL OF THE
RUSSIAN
GOVERNMENT
TO BE
CONSIDERED
AS WELL.

TO ATTEMPT
TO PULL
OUT ANY OF
BEOWULF
RIGHT NOW
WOULD KILL
MORE THAN
IT WOULD
SAVE.

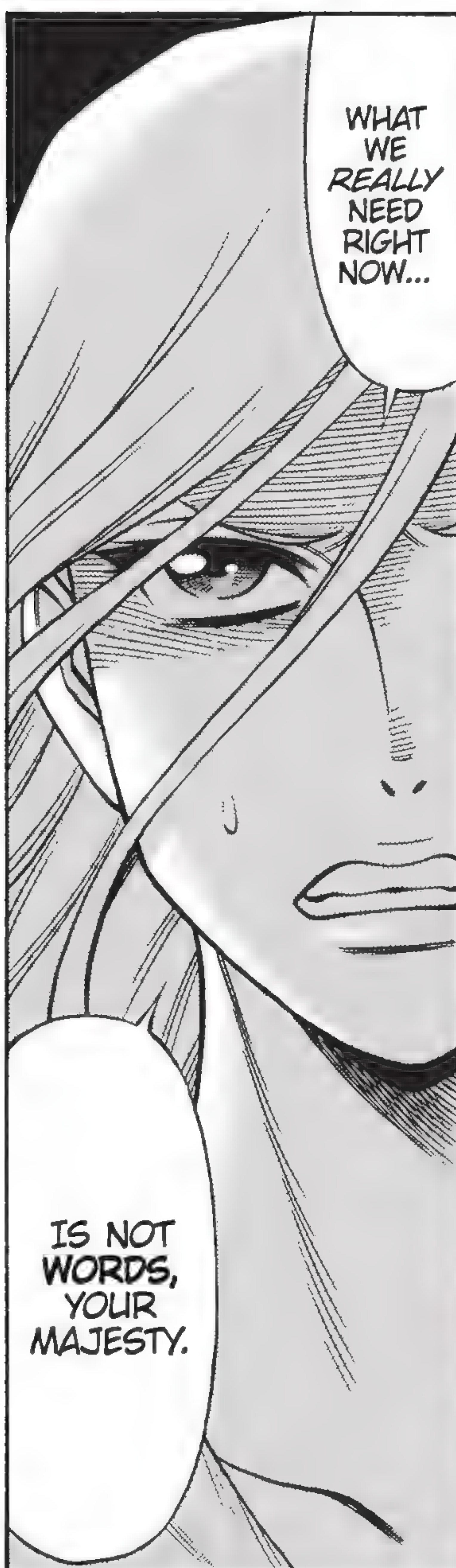
TO MAKE
THINGS WORSE,
THE LI CLAN HAS
ALSO BECOME
INVOLVED ON THE
SIDE OF IVANOVIC,
TURNING WHAT
SHOULD HAVE
BEEN A QUICK
DEPLOYMENT
INTO AN ALMOST
FULL-SCALE
WAR.





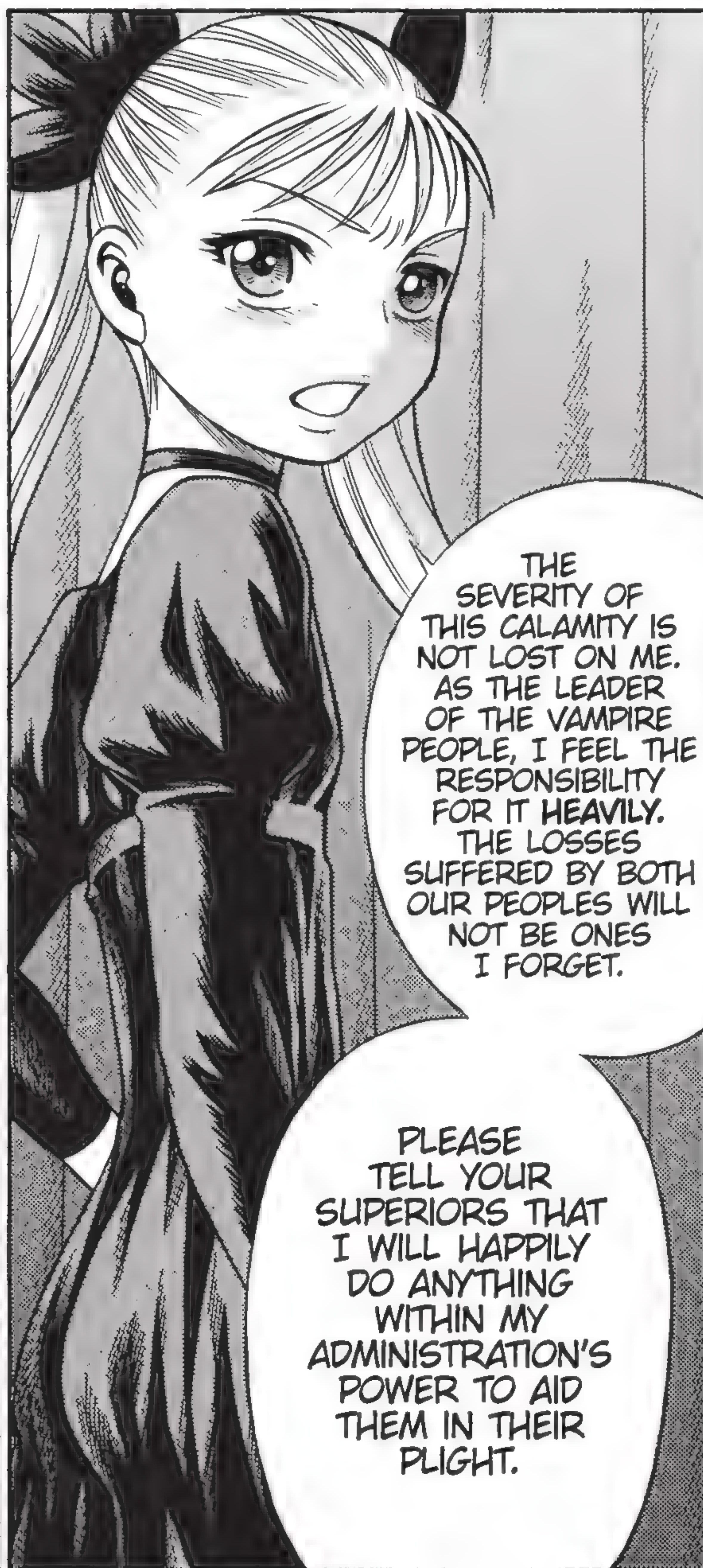
YOUR
MAJ-
ESTY
!!

MY
APOLOGIES.
ANOTHER
ISSUE HAS
ARISEN
WHICH
REQUIRES
MY
ATTENTION.



WHAT
WE
REALLY
NEED
RIGHT
NOW...

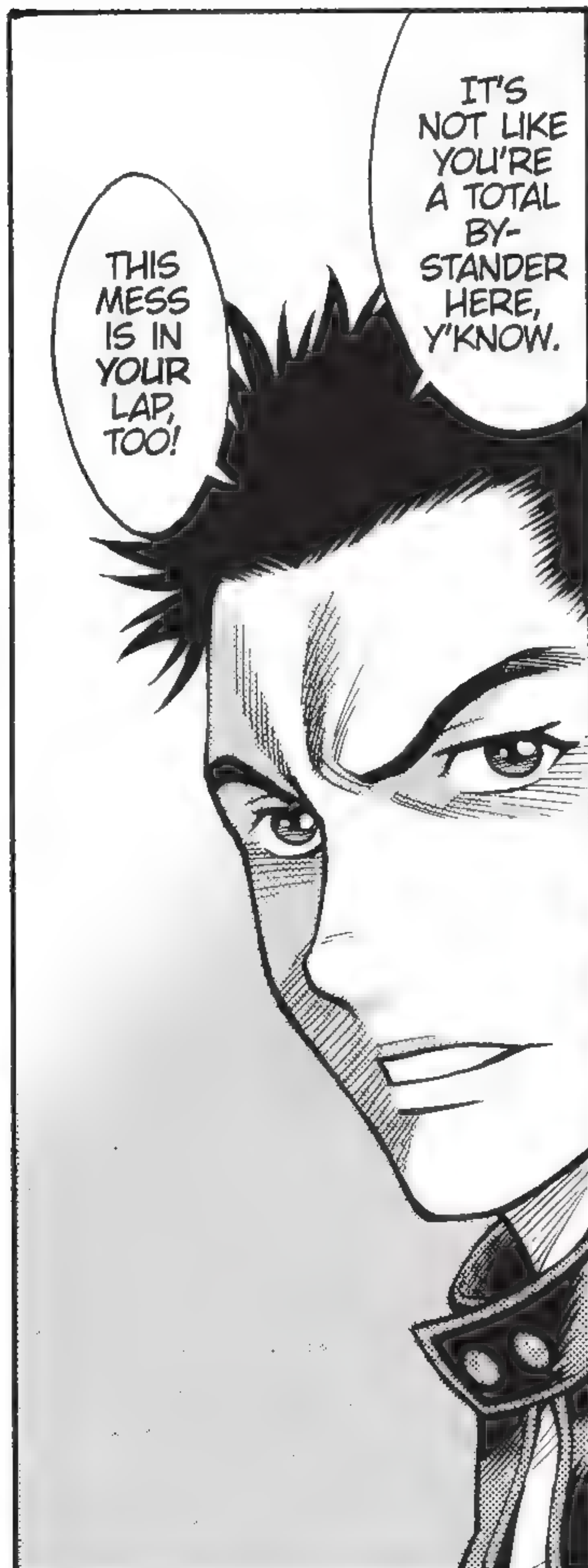
IS NOT
WORDS,
YOUR
MAJESTY.



THE
SEVERITY OF
THIS CALAMITY IS
NOT LOST ON ME.
AS THE LEADER
OF THE VAMPIRE
PEOPLE, I FEEL THE
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR IT HEAVILY.
THE LOSSES
SUFFERED BY BOTH
OUR PEOPLES WILL
NOT BE ONES
I FORGET.

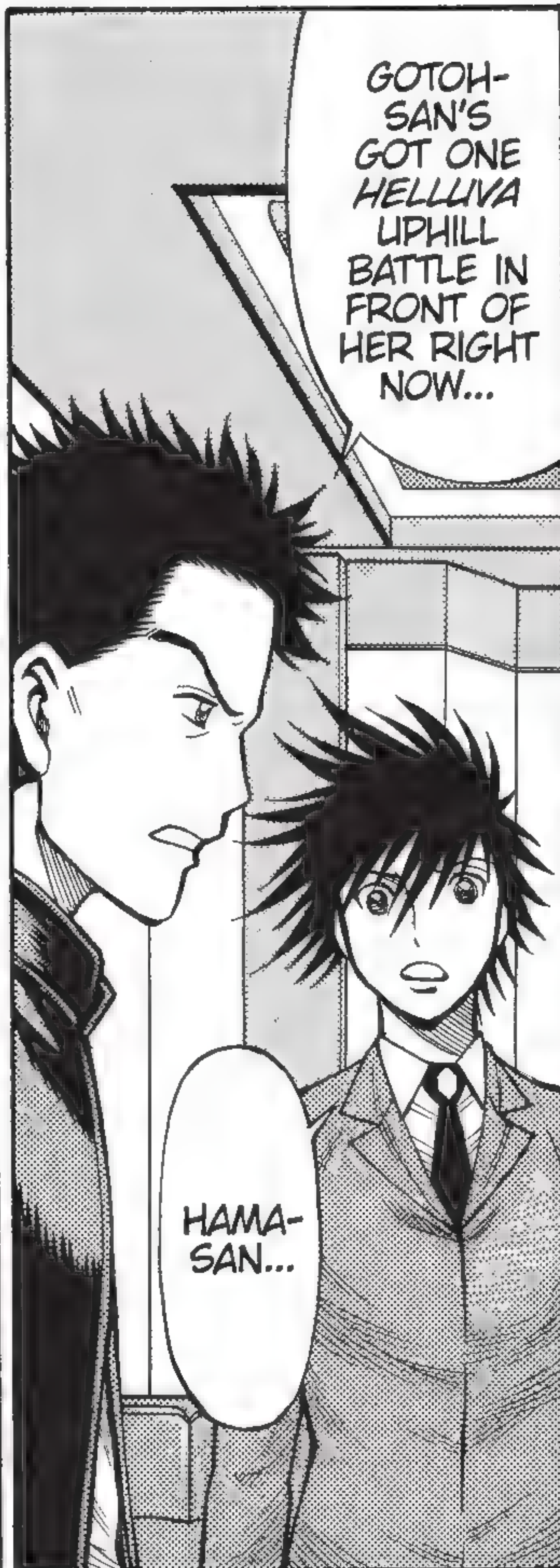
PLEASE
TELL YOUR
SUPERIORS THAT
I WILL HAPPILY
DO ANYTHING
WITHIN MY
ADMINISTRATION'S
POWER TO AID
THEM IN THEIR
PLIGHT.





THIS MESS IS IN YOUR LAP, TOO!

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE A TOTAL BY-STANDER HERE, Y'KNOW.



GOTOH-SAN'S GOT ONE HELLUVA UPHILL BATTLE IN FRONT OF HER RIGHT NOW...

HAMA-SAN...



BUT NOW THAT THERE'S BEEN A BIG INCIDENT, ALL THAT RESENTMENT THAT THEY'VE HELD UNDER WRAPS THIS WHOLE TIME IS STARTING TO BUBBLE UP TO THE SURFACE.

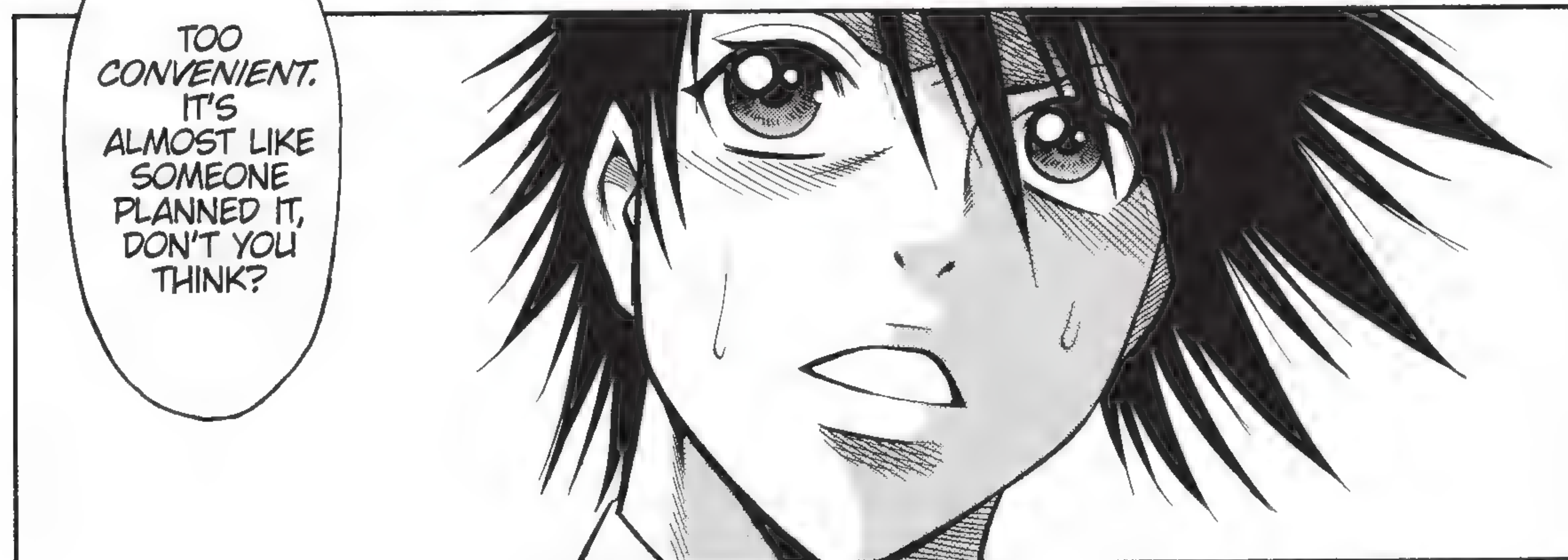
CALL IT THE UNINTENDED BARRIERS OF AN OVER-COMPARTMENTALIZED BUREAUCRACY, OR CALL IT PETTY TURF-WARS BETWEEN REGIONAL BARONS. IT'S ESSENTIALLY THE SAME THING.

EVERYBODY'S ACTING TO MAKE THEIR OWN MINISTRY LOOK GOOD, AND TO MAKE DAMN SURE OTHERS DON'T TRESPASS ON "THEIR" TERRITORY.

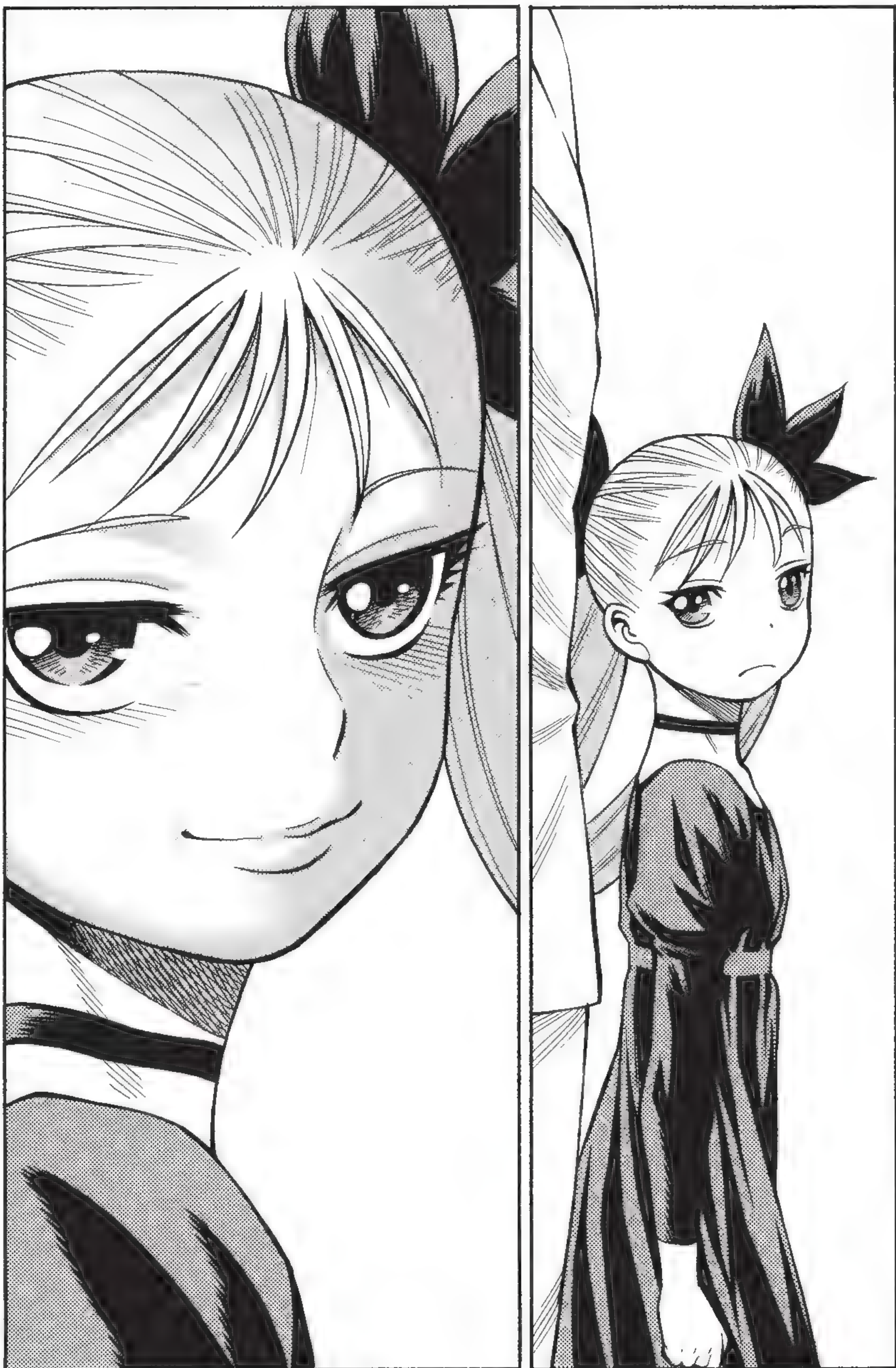
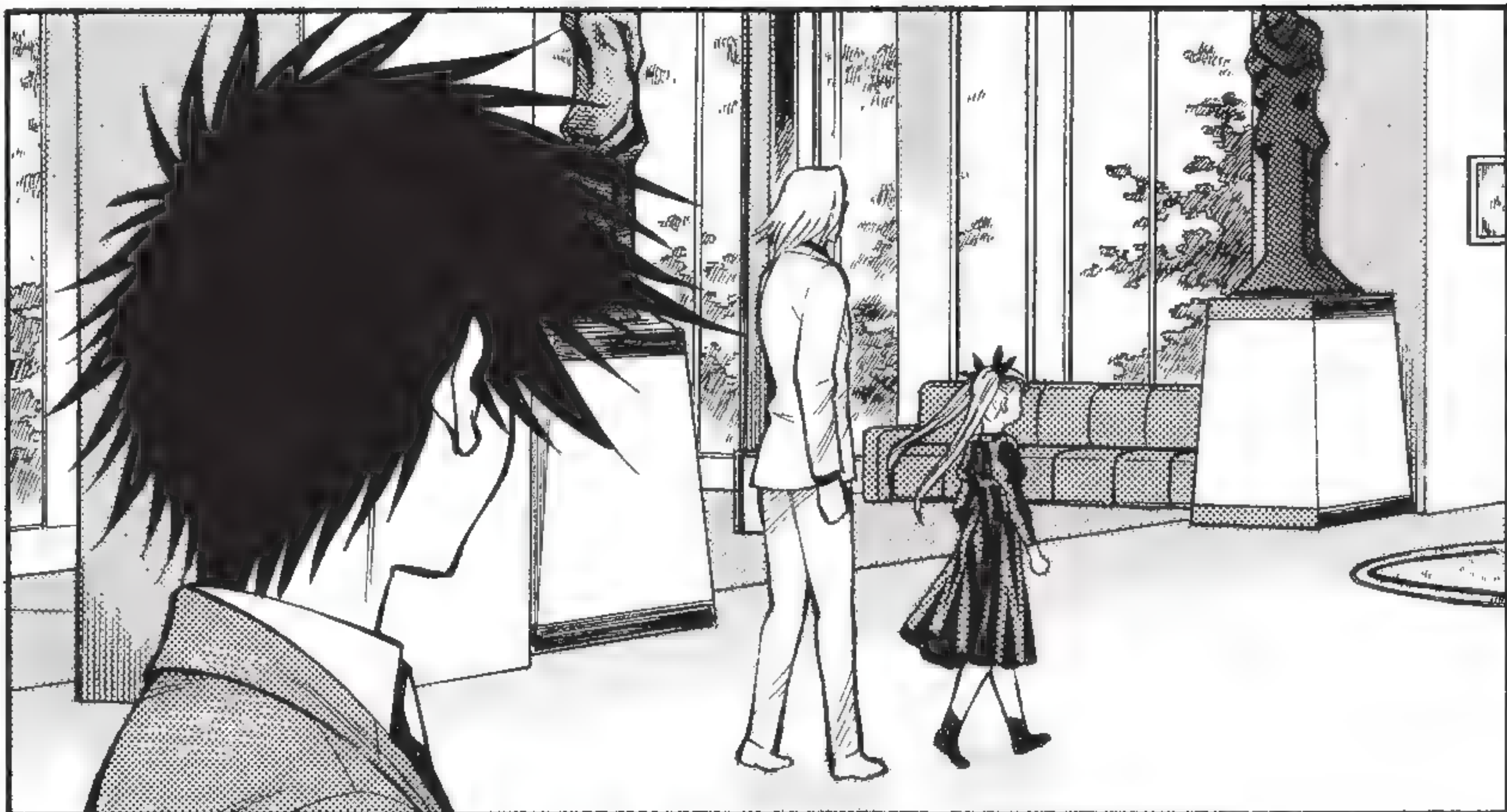
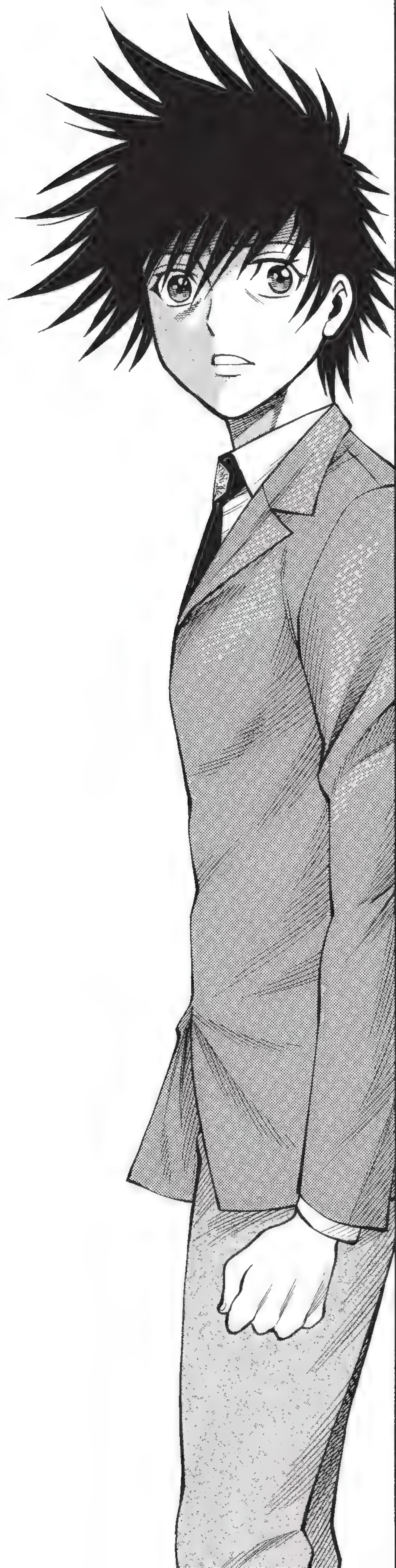


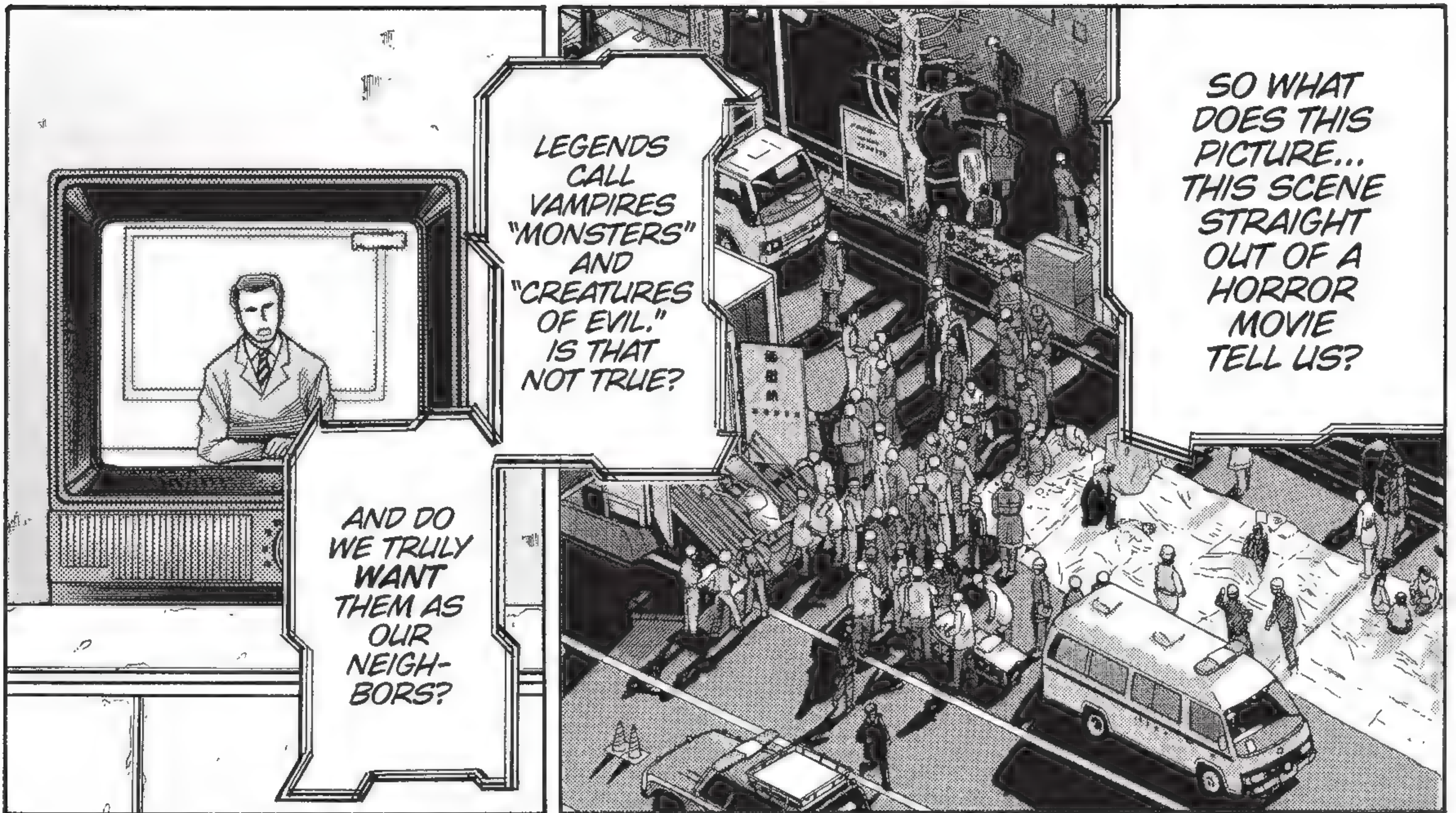
IT'S ALL TOO NEAT.

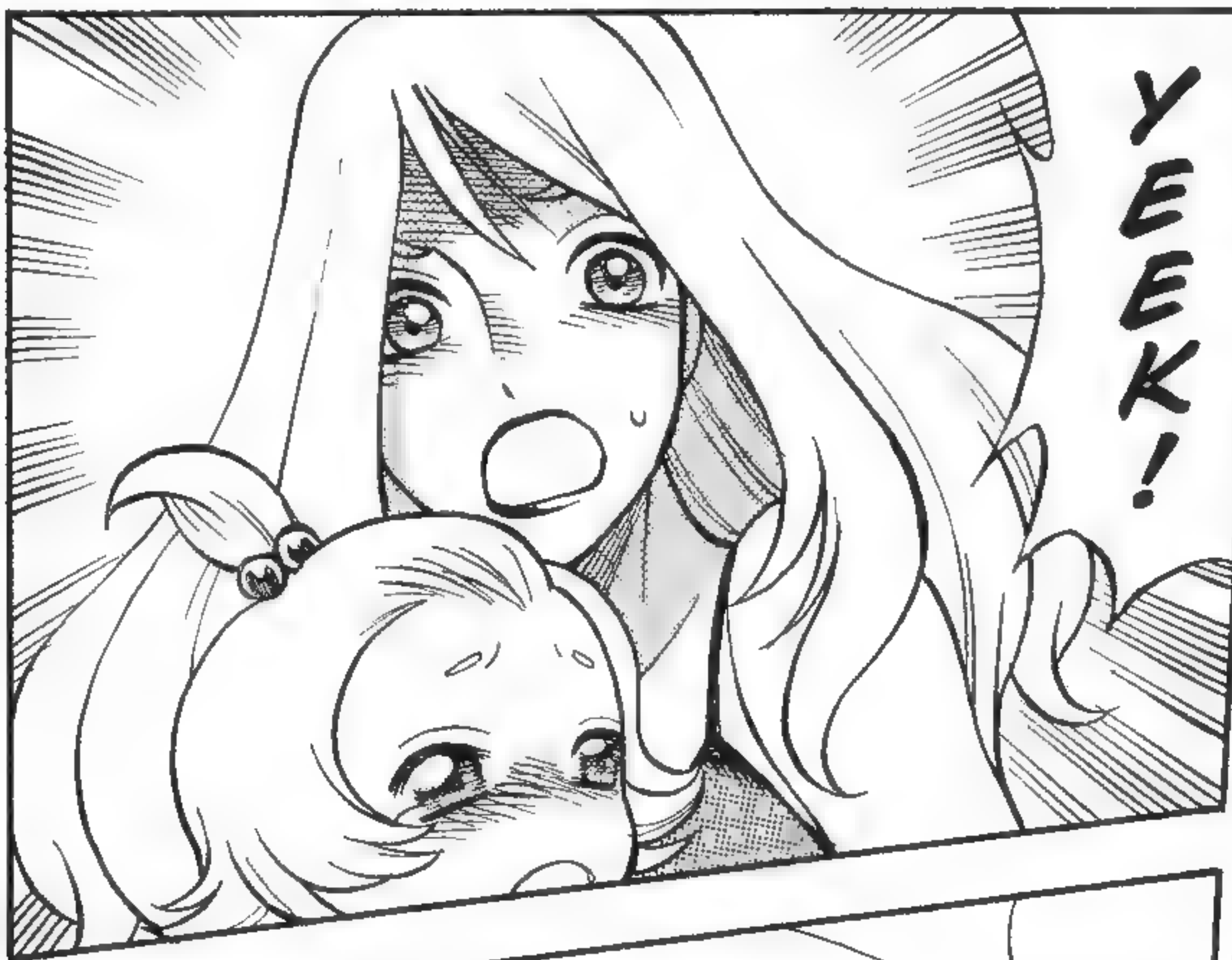
THE VACCINE SHORTAGE... BEOWULF BEING ALL THE WAY IN GODDAMN RUSSIA... JUST WHEN WE NEED THEM BOTH.

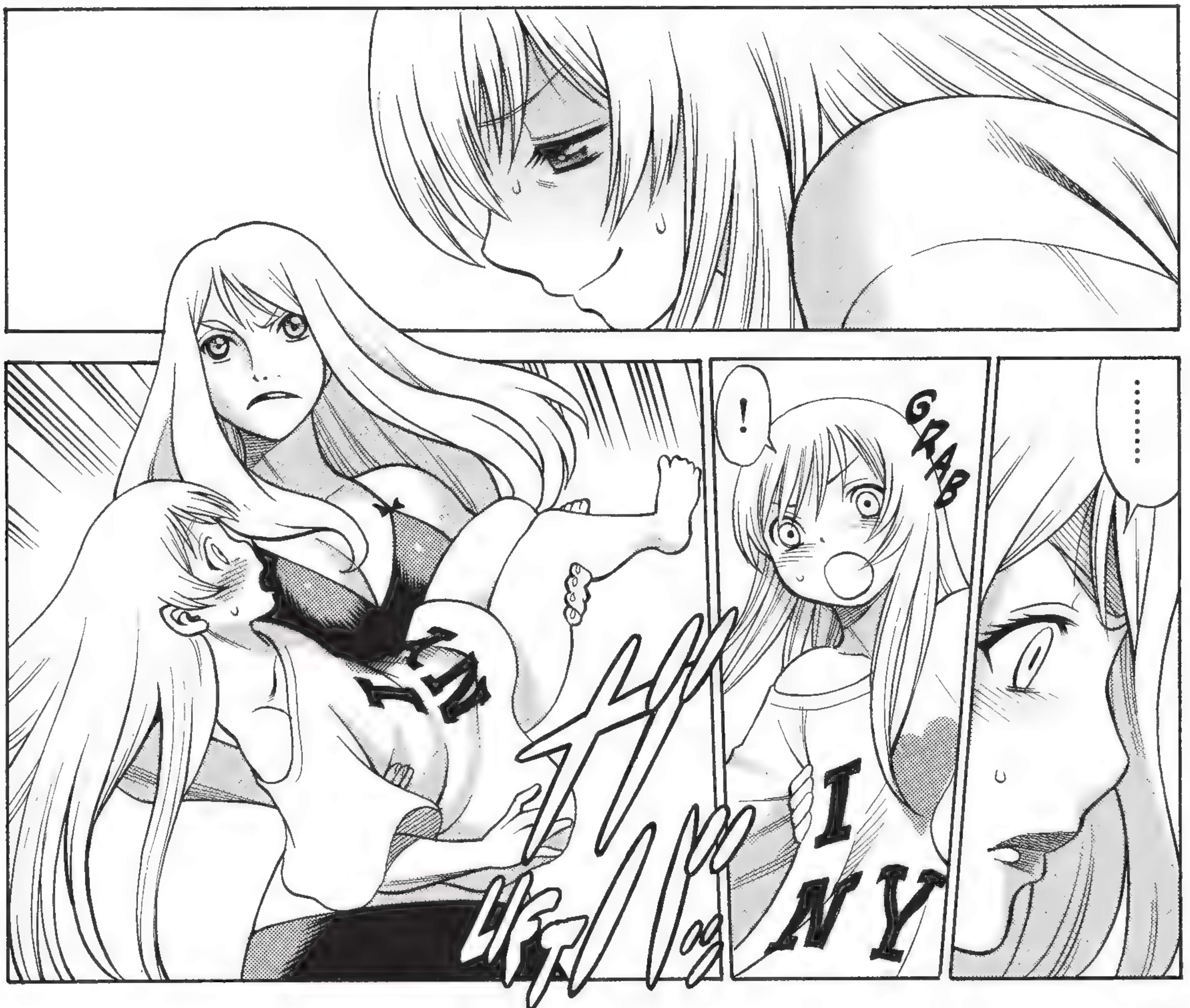
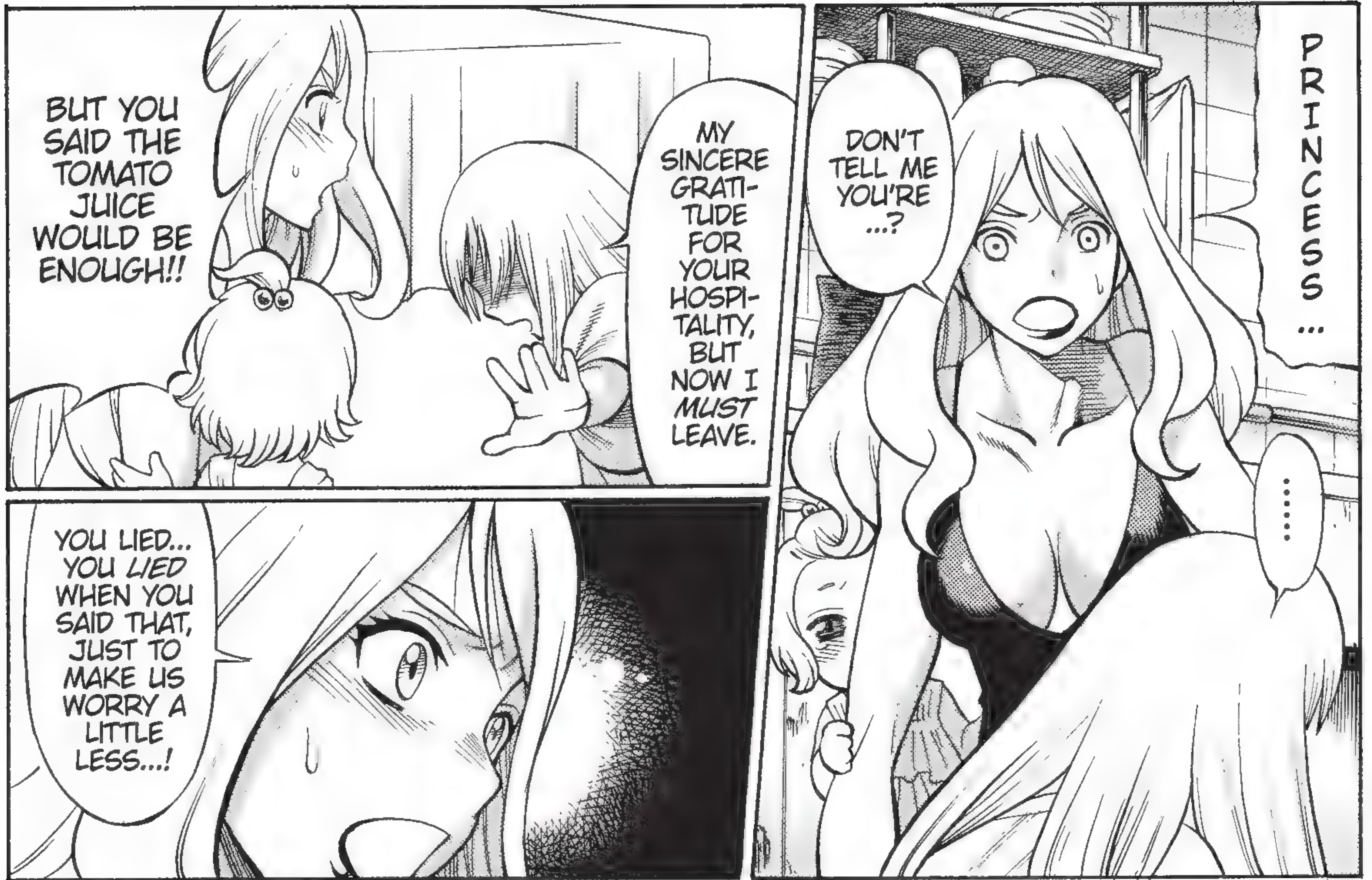


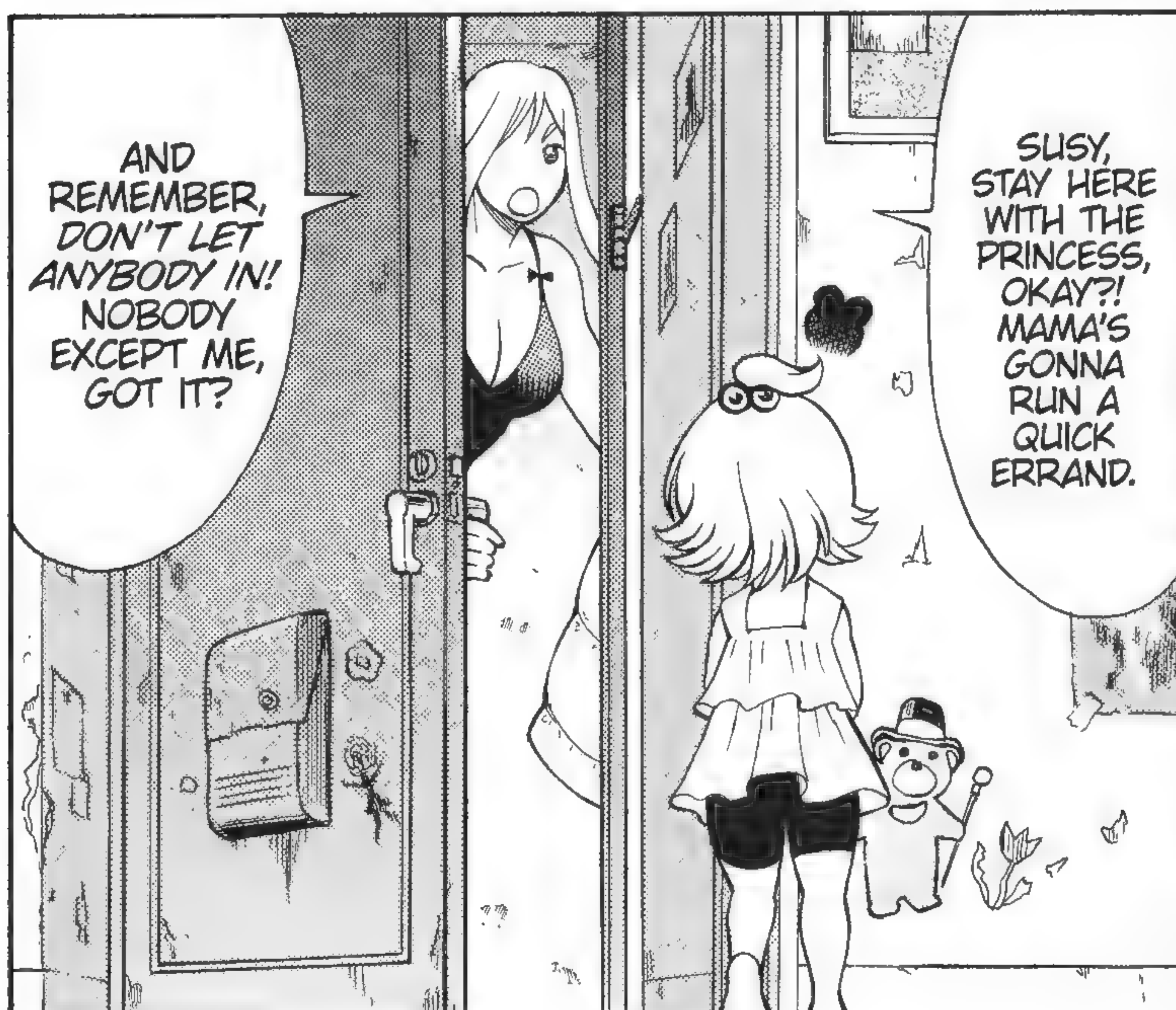
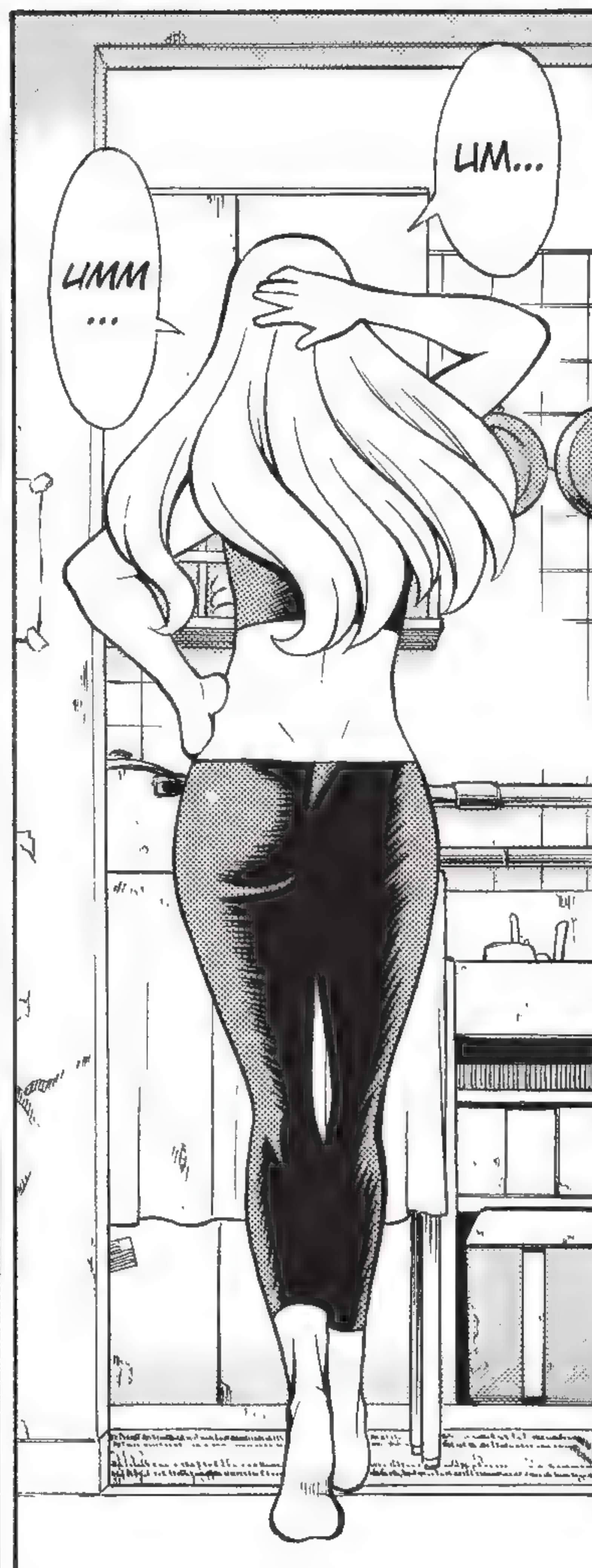
TOO CONVENIENT. IT'S ALMOST LIKE SOMEONE PLANNED IT, DON'T YOU THINK?

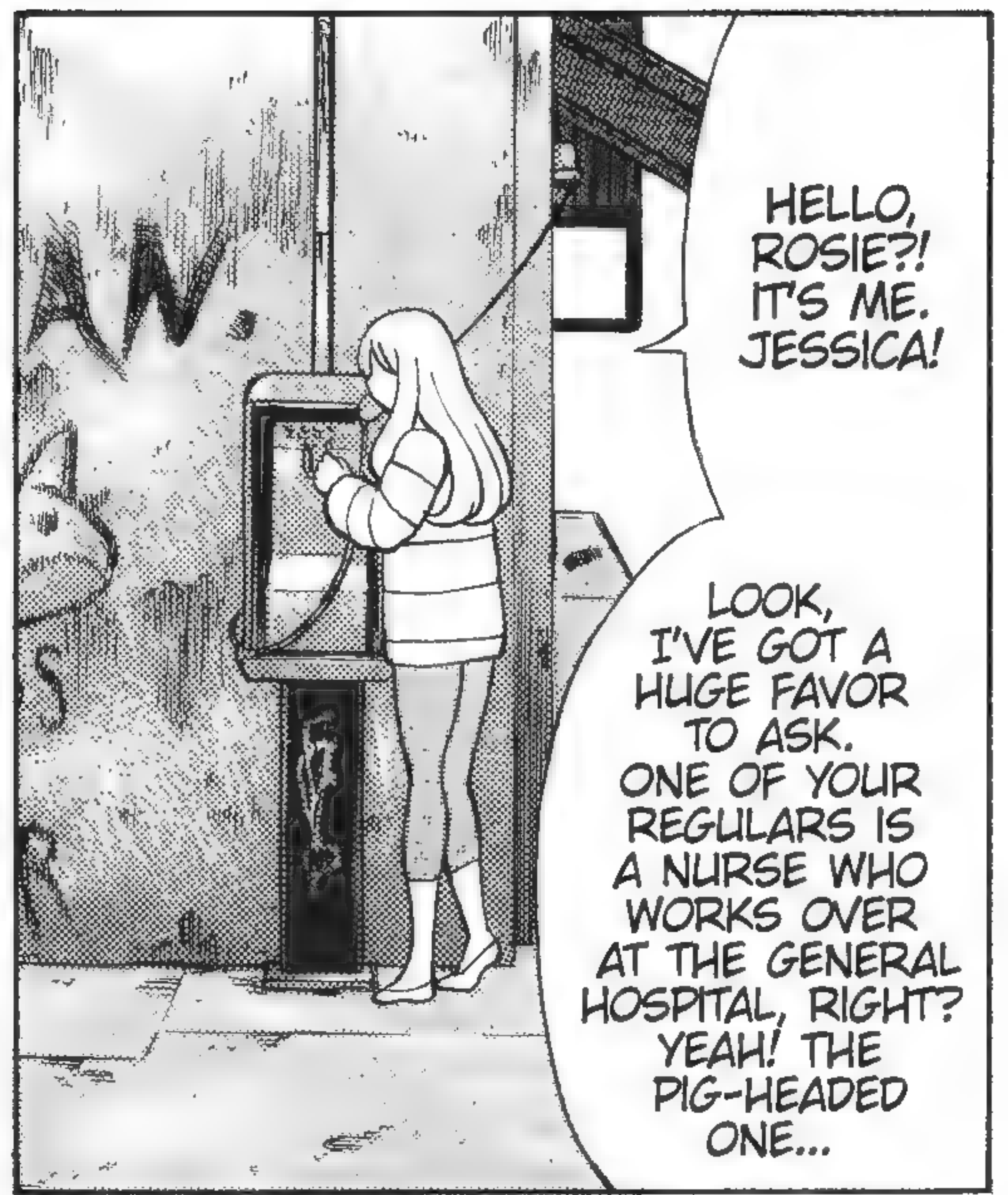


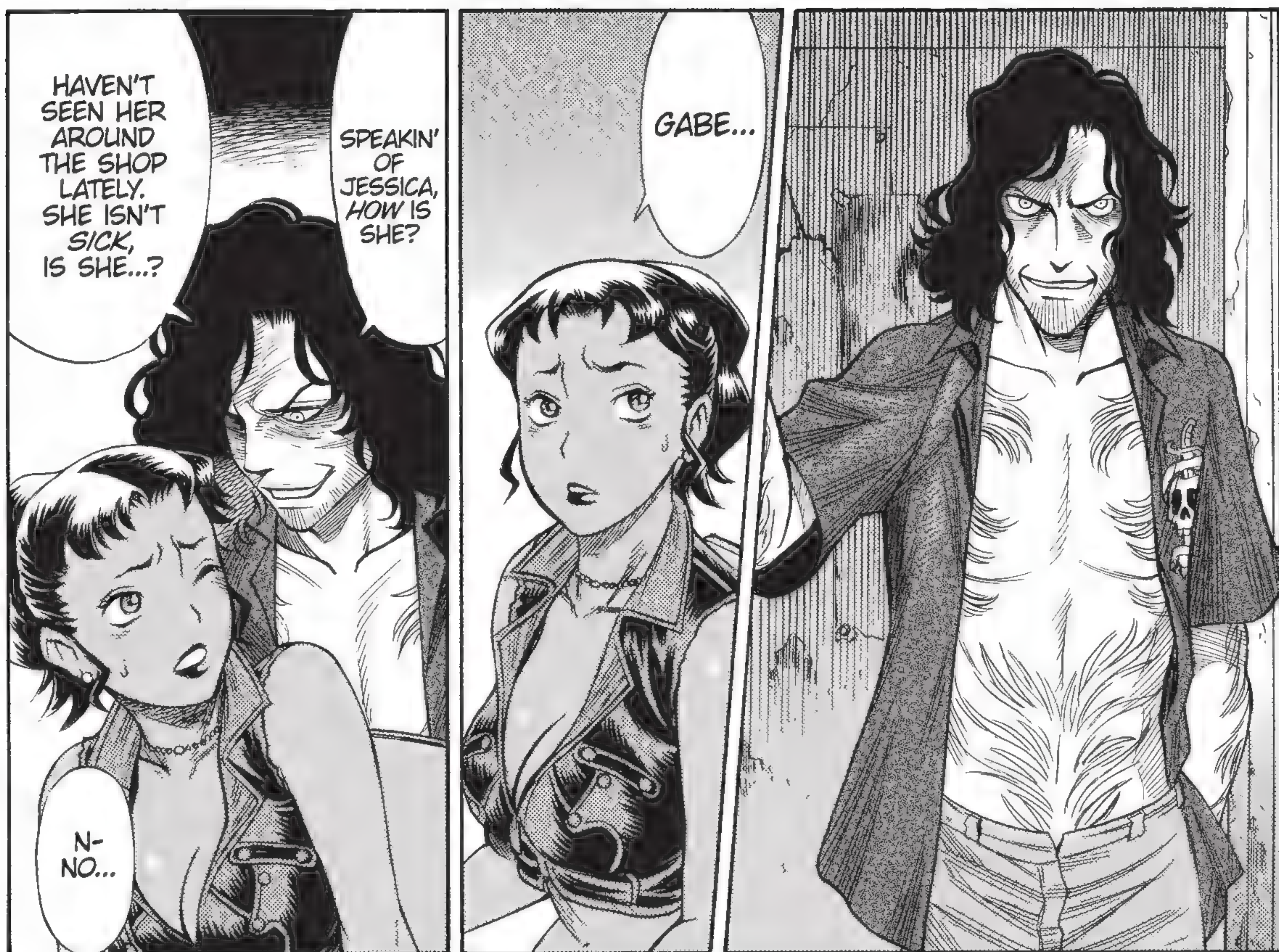


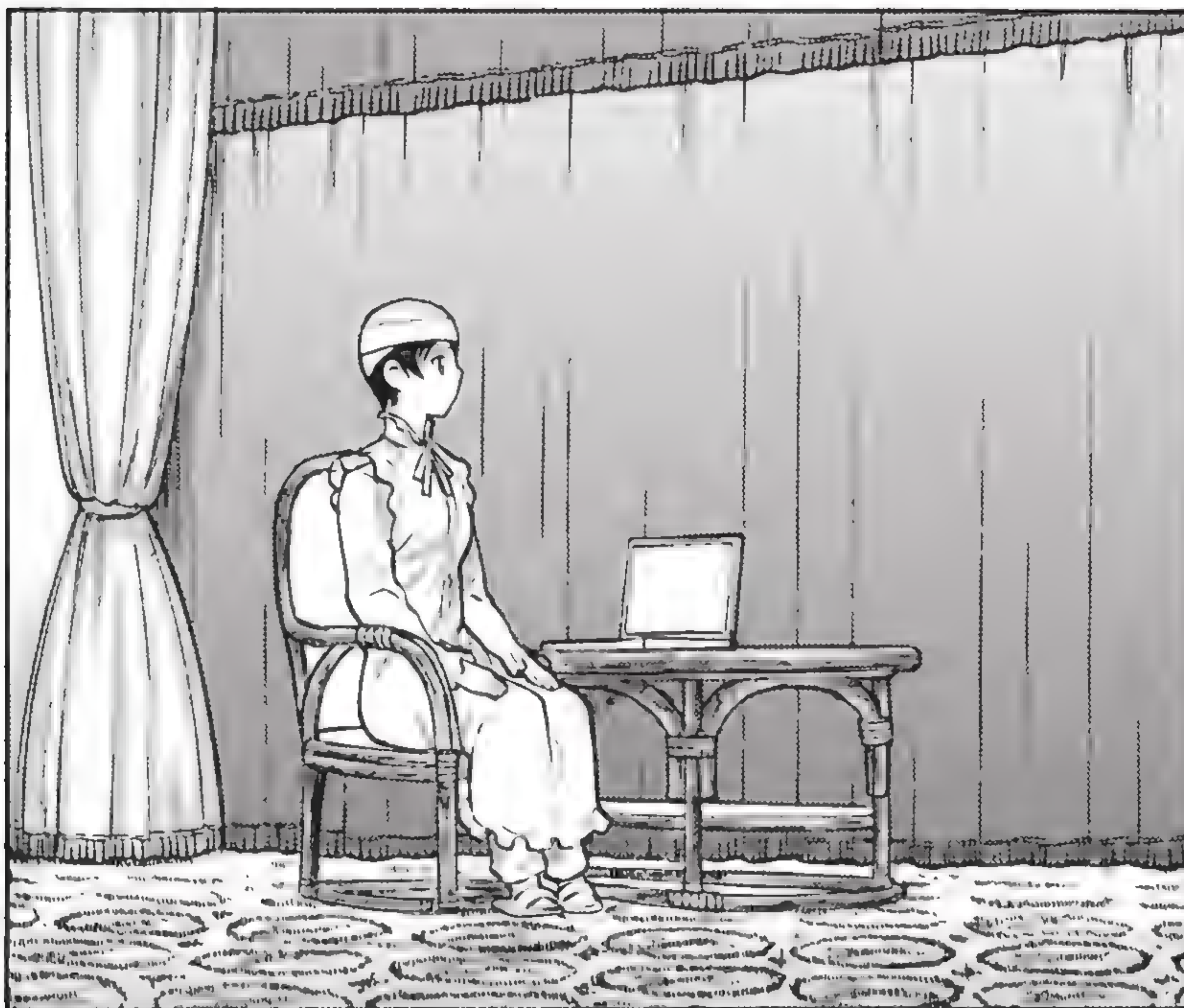
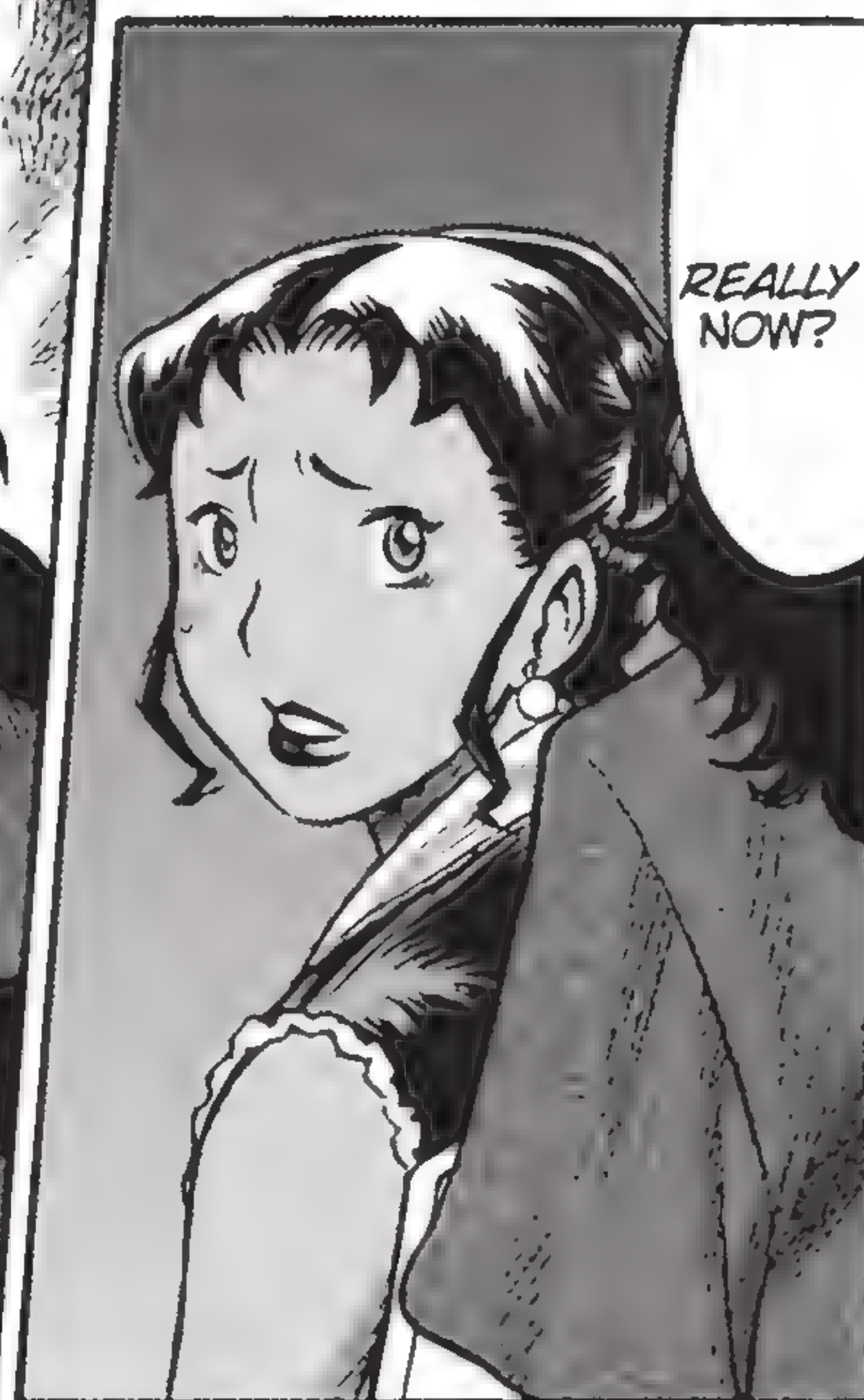


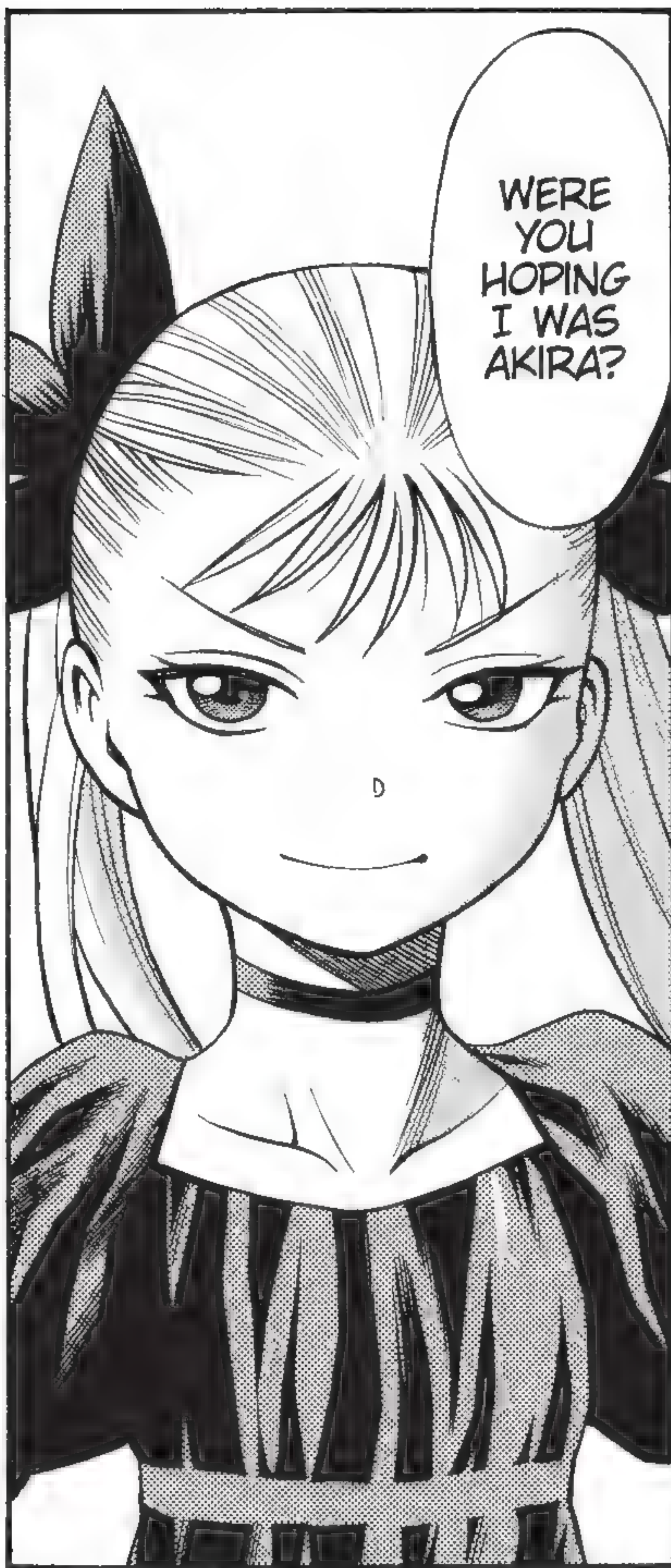




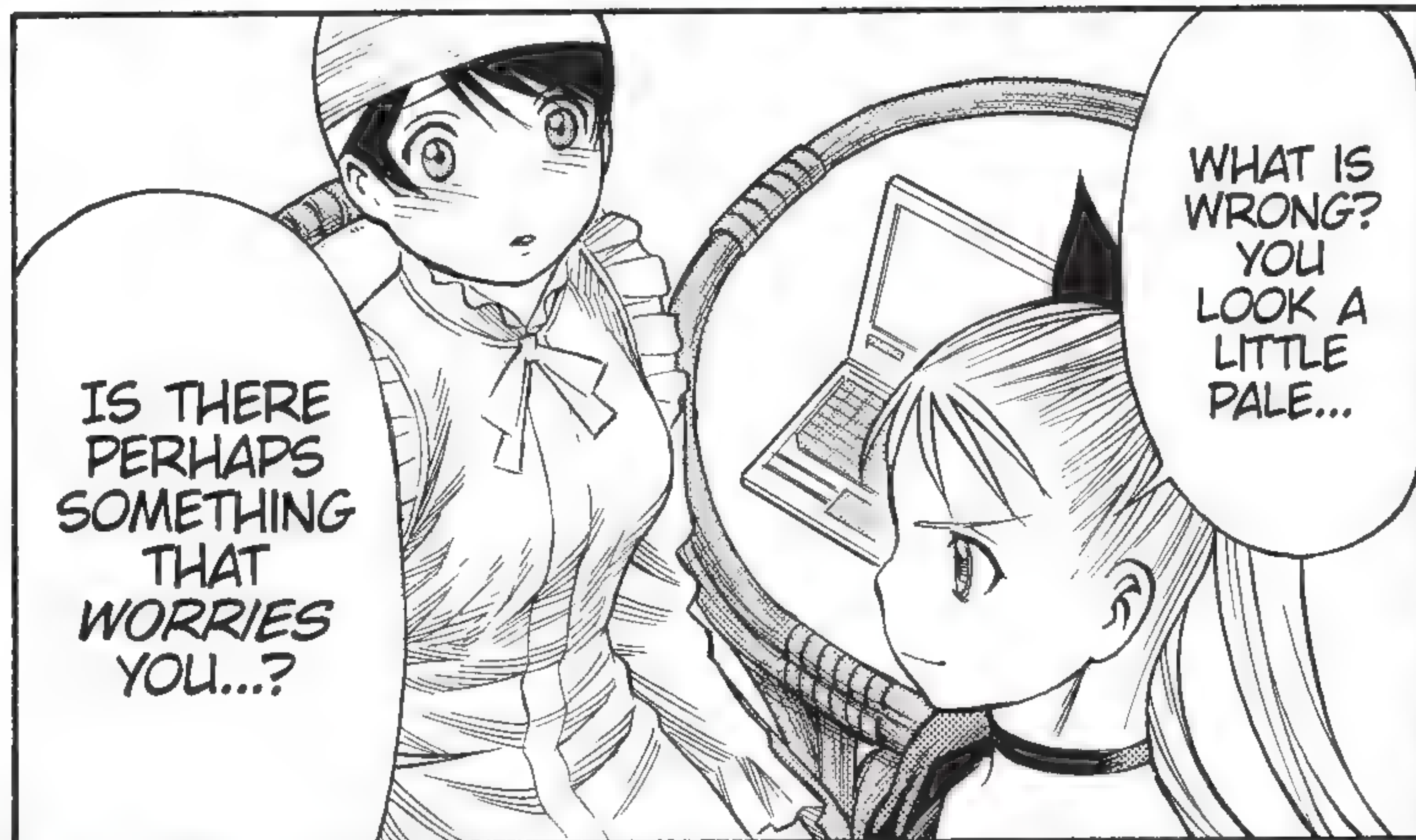








WERE
YOU
HOPING
I WAS
AKIRA?

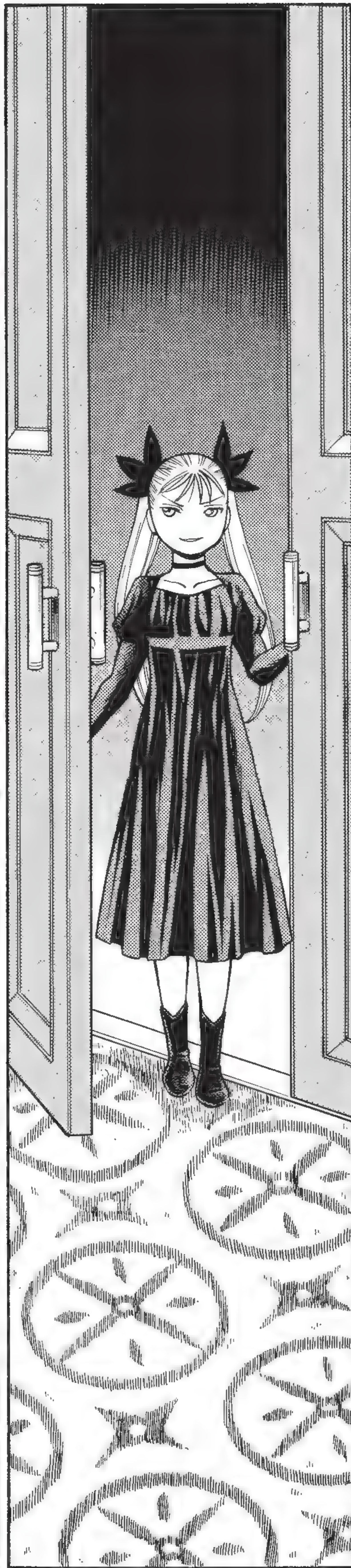


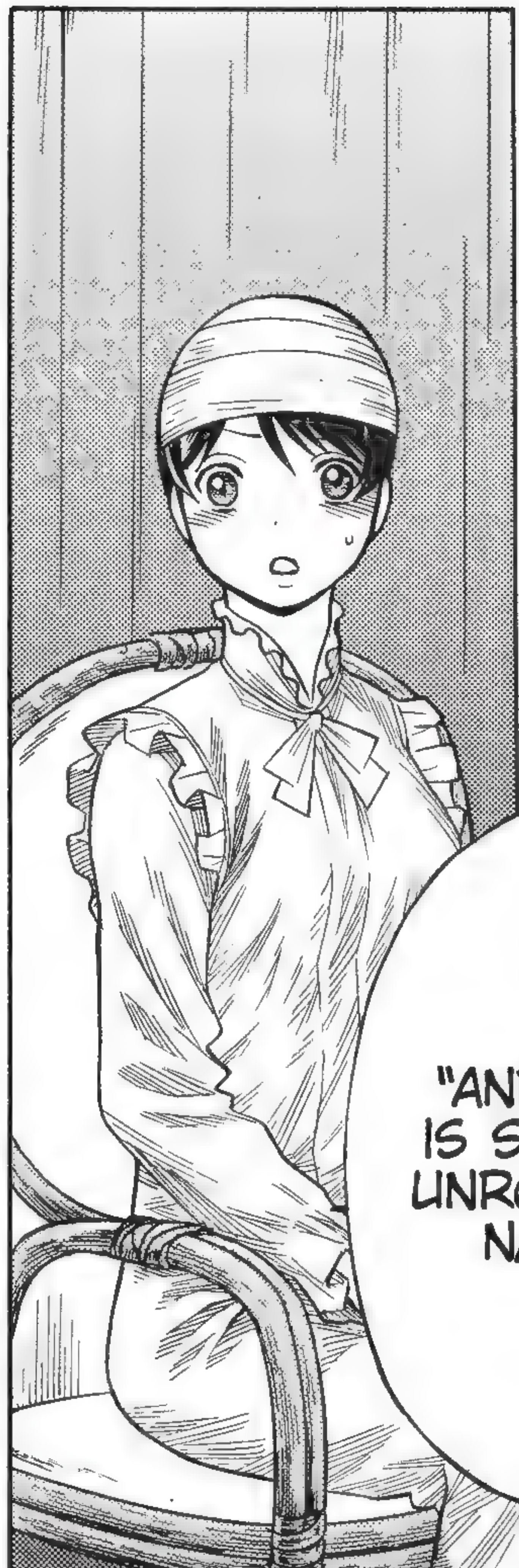
IS THERE
PERHAPS
SOMETHING
THAT
WORRIES
YOU...?

WHAT IS
WRONG?
YOU
LOOK A
LITTLE
PALE...



HEH





"AND ANNE
IS SUCH AN
UNROMANTIC
NAME."

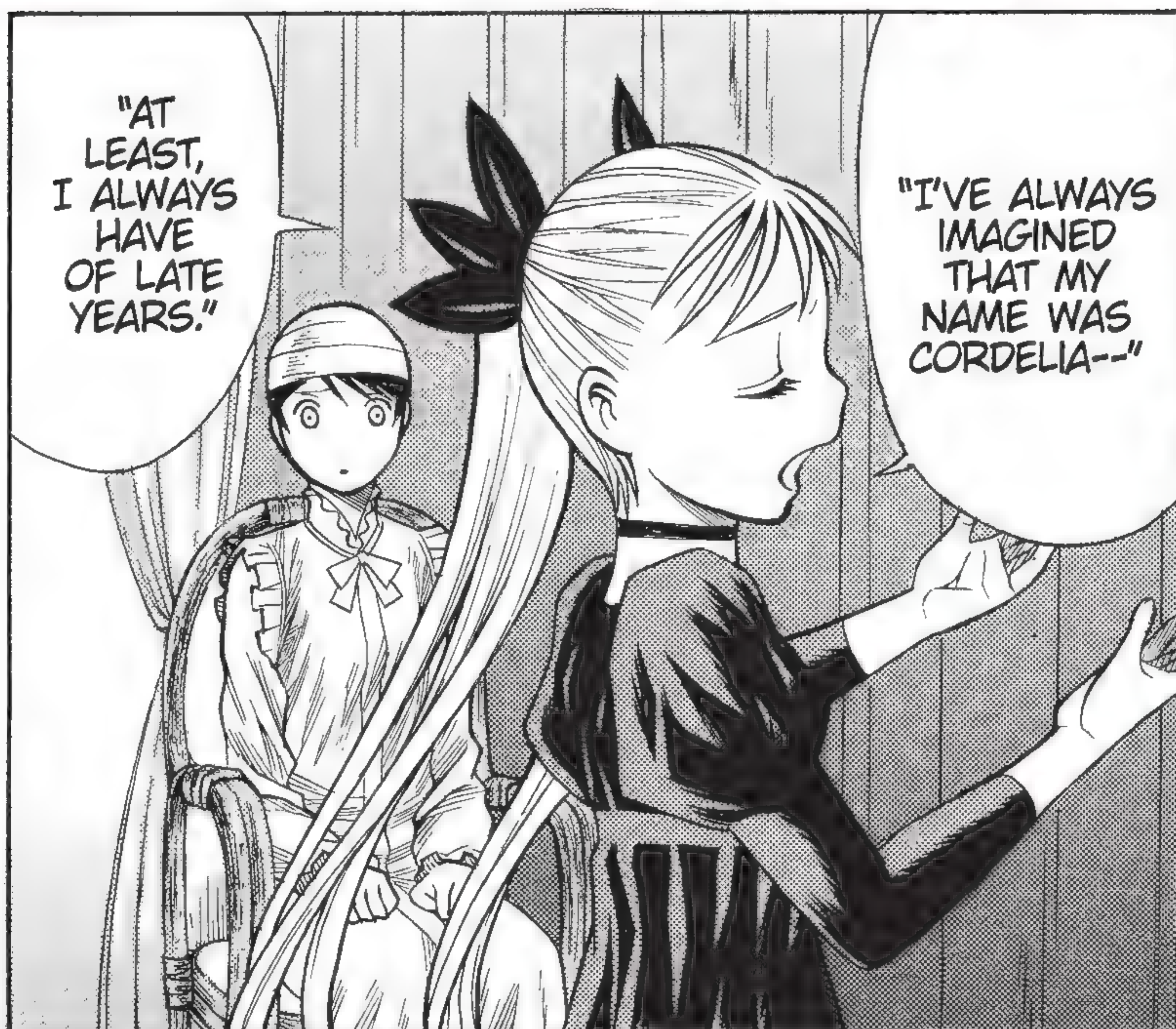


"IT CAN'T
MATTER
MUCH TO
YOU WHAT
YOU CALL ME
IF I'M ONLY
GOING TO
BE HERE
A LITTLE
WHILE,
CAN IT?"



"...BUT,
OH..."

"PLEASE
DO CALL
ME
CORDELIA."



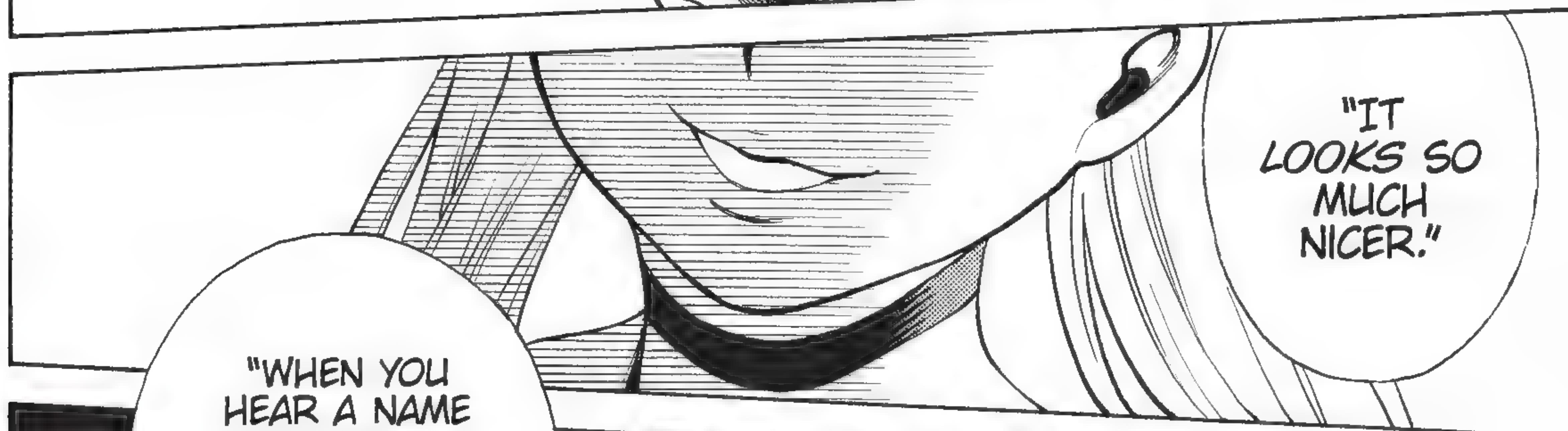
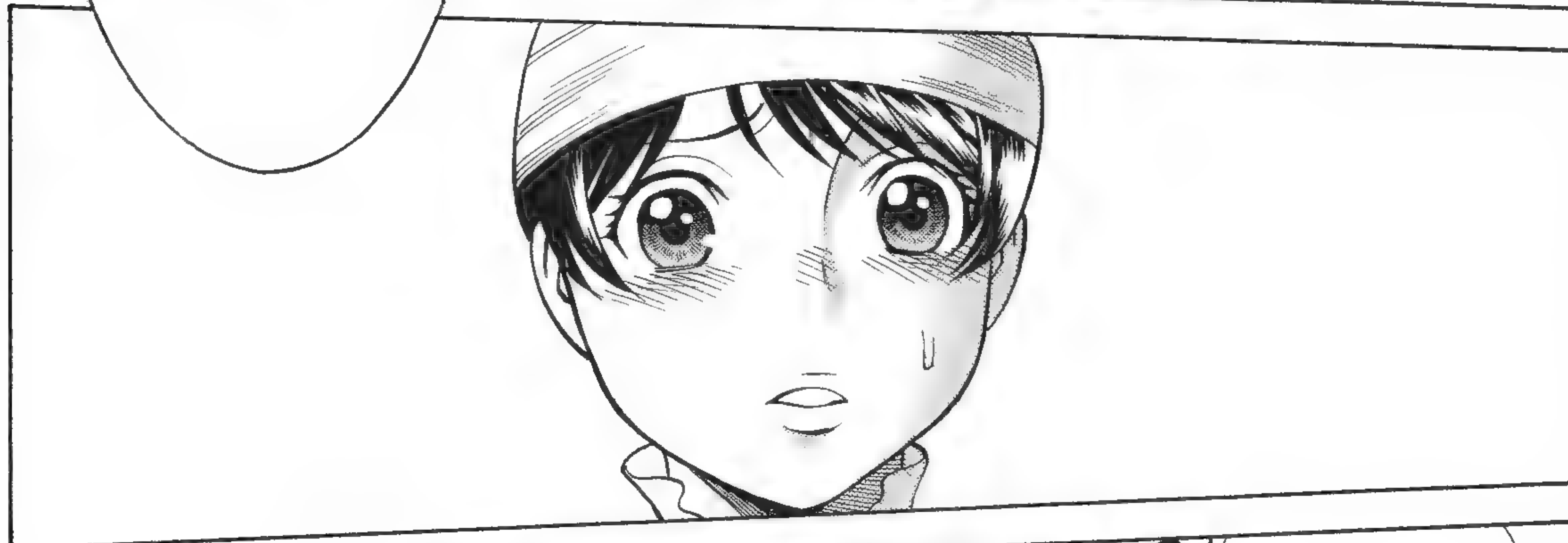
"AT
LEAST,
I ALWAYS
HAVE
OF LATE
YEARS."

"I'VE ALWAYS
IMAGINED
THAT MY
NAME WAS
CORDELIA--"



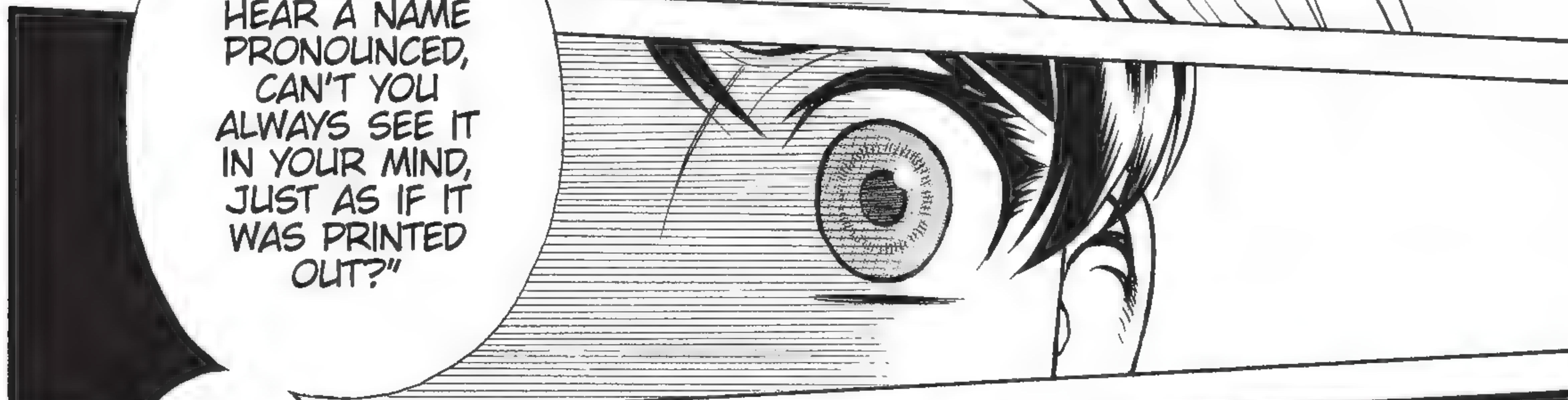
"PLEASE
CALL ME
ANNE
SPELLED
WITH AN
E."

"BUT
IF YOU
CALL ME
ANNE..."

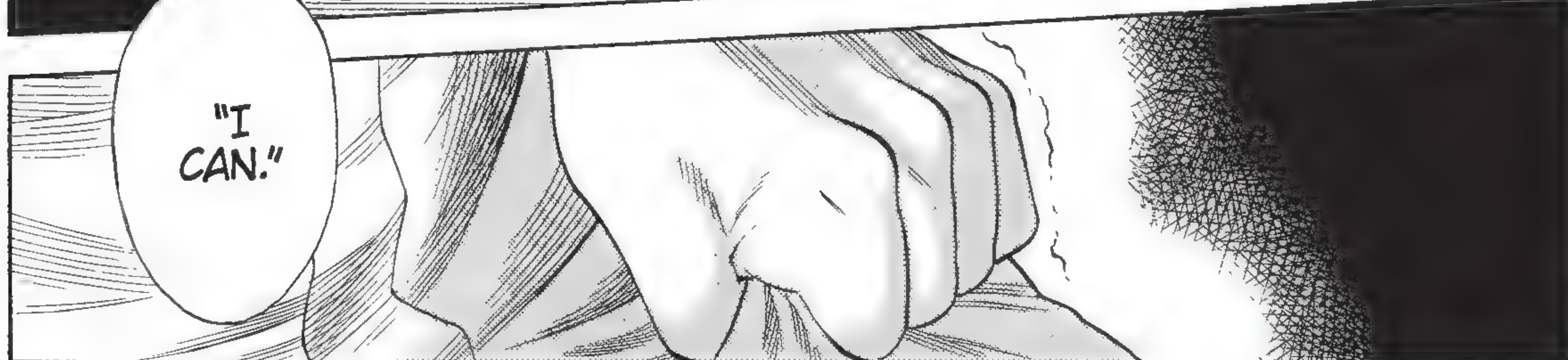


"WHEN YOU
HEAR A NAME
PRONOUNCED,
CAN'T YOU
ALWAYS SEE IT
IN YOUR MIND,
JUST AS IF IT
WAS PRINTED
OUT?"

"IT
LOOKS SO
MUCH
NICER."



"I
CAN."



Anne

"BUT
A-N-N-E
LOOKS
SO MUCH
MORE
DISTIN-
GUISHED."

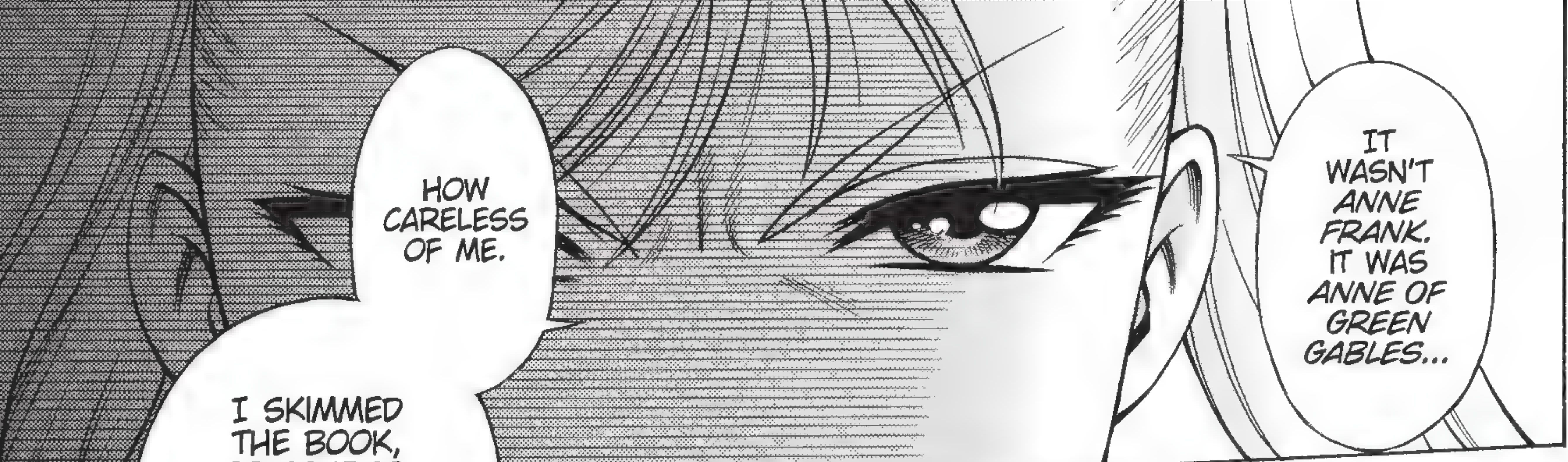
Anne

"AND
A-N-N
LOOKS
DREADFUL
..."



"IF
YOU'LL
ONLY
CALL ME
ANNE
SPELLED
WITH AN
E..."

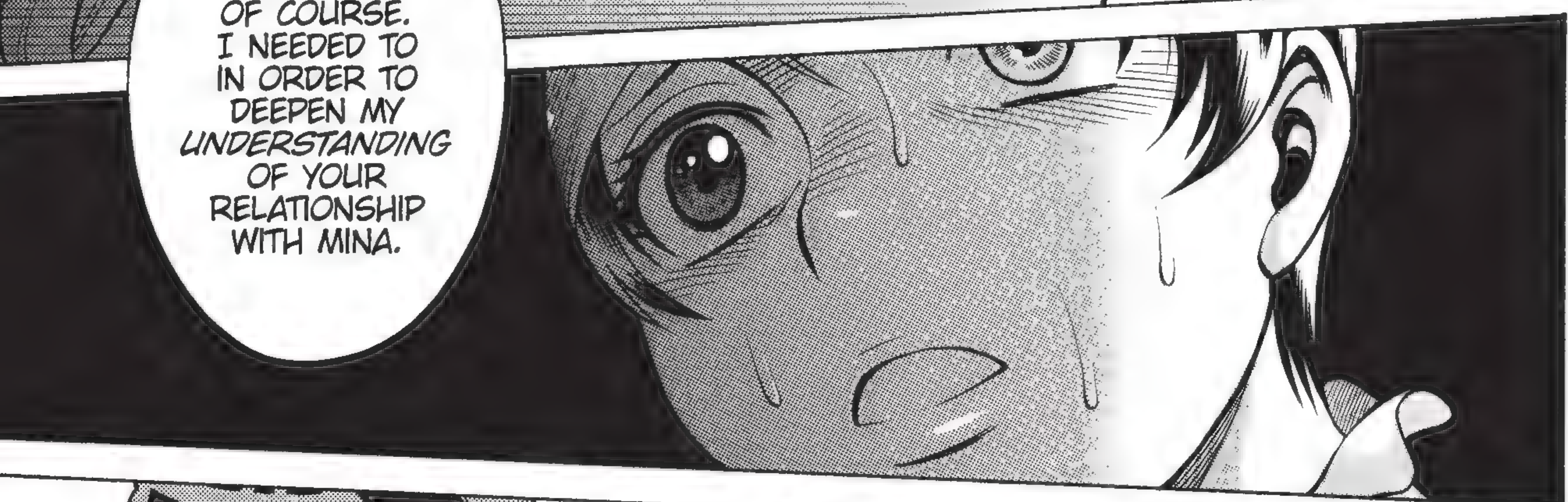
"I SHALL
TRY TO
RECONCILE
MYSELF TO
NOT BEING
CALLED
CORDELIA."



HOW
CARELESS
OF ME.

IT
WASN'T
ANNE
FRANK.
IT WAS
ANNE OF
GREEN
GABLES...

I SKIMMED
THE BOOK,
OF COURSE.
I NEEDED TO
IN ORDER TO
DEEPEN MY
UNDERSTANDING
OF YOUR
RELATIONSHIP
WITH MINA.



HEH
HEH...
HARD TO
BELIEVE,
ISN'T
IT?



BUT THE STORY
WAS SO SICKENINGLY
SWEET AND MIND-
NUMBINGLY INSIPID
THAT I MUST HAVE
UNCONSCIOUSLY PURGED
IT FROM MY MIND
ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.



YOUR
VAPID
LITTLE
FANGIRL
HOBBY...

NEVER DID
I EXPECT
SOMETHING
SO TRIVIAL
TO POSE
ANY KIND
OF THREAT
TO ME...

HER
THOUGHT
PROCESSES.
HER
MEMORIES.
HER FONDEST
HOPES AND
DREAMS.
I MEMORIZED
THEM ALL.



I WENT TO
SUCH GREAT
LENGTHS TO
RE-EXPERIENCE
ALL OF THE
MOUNTAINS OF
DATA WE
SCANNED OUT
OF MINA'S
LITTLE
BRAIN...

I BELIEVED
I HAD
BECOME MINA
COMPLETELY.
SEAMLESSLY.
ALL THAT
EFFORT...
AND WHAT
EXPOSES
ME?



SHVR

SHVR

SHVR



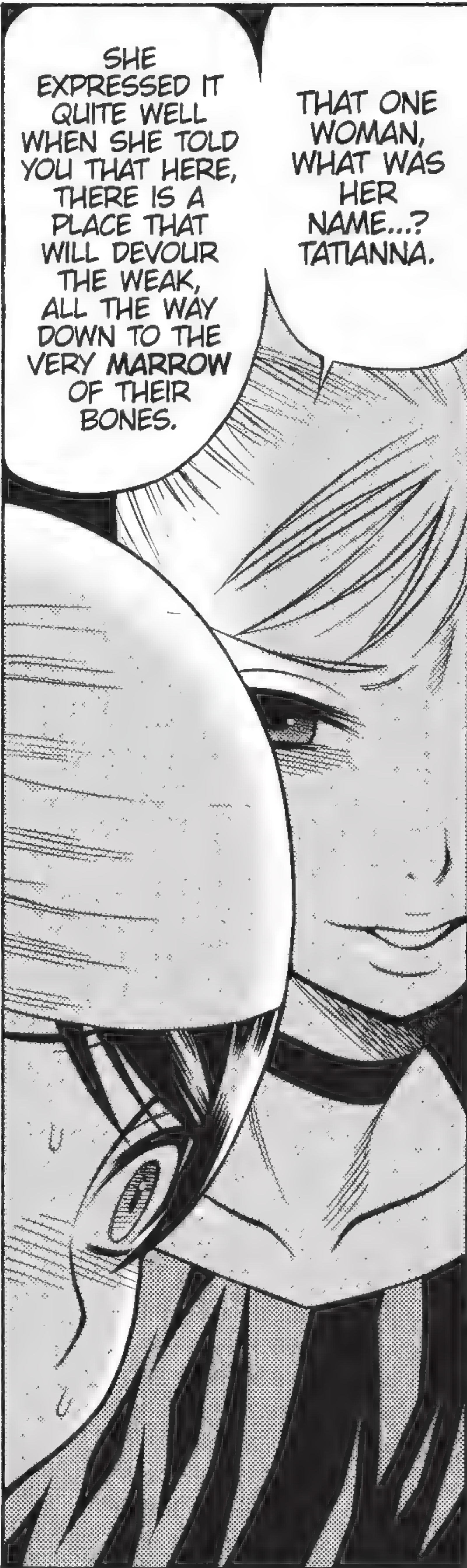


SO I
KNOW ALL
ABOUT
THAT LITTLE
SOS
YOU TRIED
TO SEND TO
AKIRA...



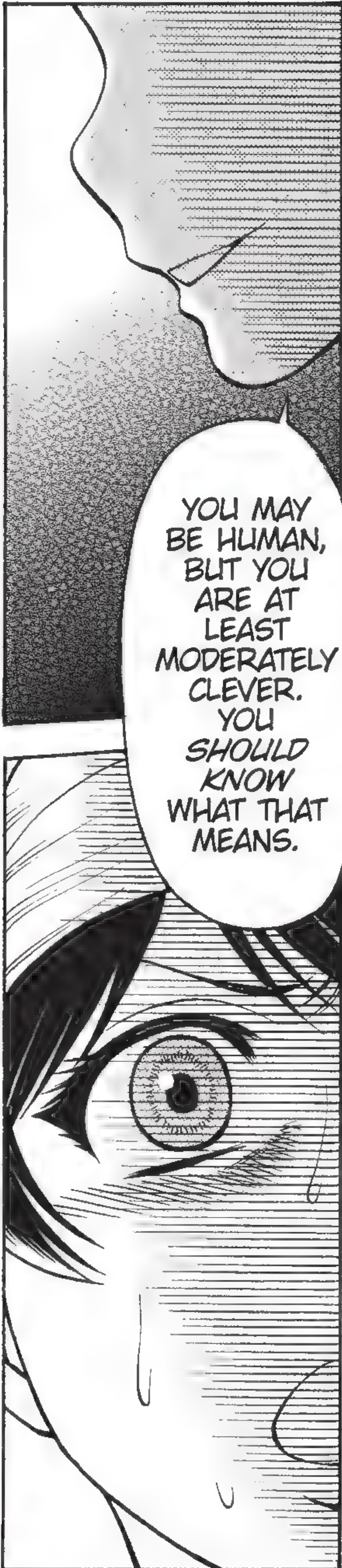
YOU
THOUGHT
YOU GOT
OUT,
DIDN'T
YOU?

YET
HERE YOU
ARE...
STILL
RIGHT
IN THE
MIDDLE
OF IT.



SHE
EXPRESSED IT
QUITE WELL
WHEN SHE TOLD
YOU THAT HERE,
THERE IS A
PLACE THAT
WILL DEVOUR
THE WEAK,
ALL THE WAY
DOWN TO THE
VERY MARROW
OF THEIR
BONES.

THAT ONE
WOMAN,
WHAT WAS
HER
NAME...?
TATIANNA.



YOU MAY
BE HUMAN,
BUT YOU
ARE AT
LEAST
MODERATELY
CLEVER.
YOU
SHOULD
KNOW
WHAT THAT
MEANS.

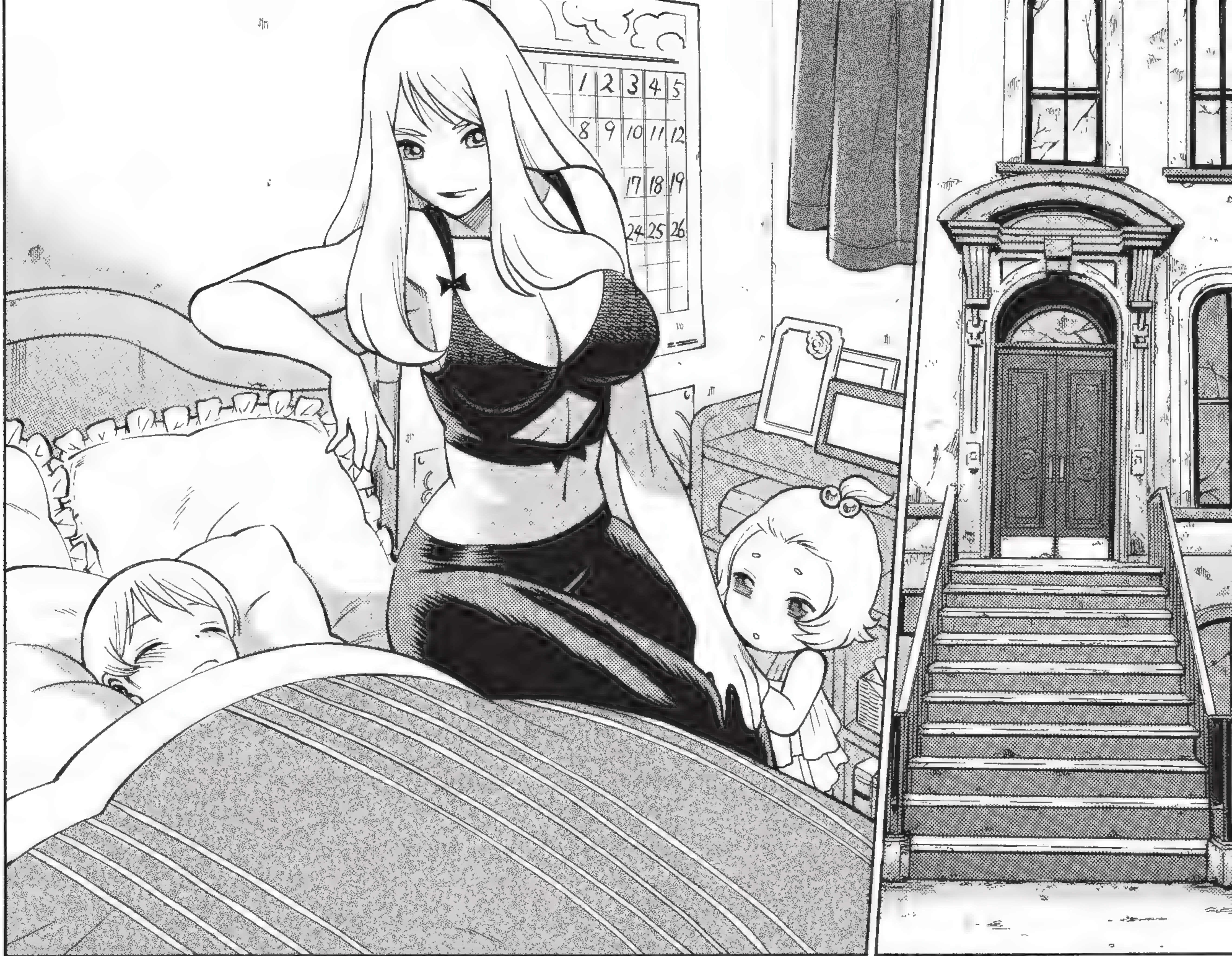


HOW
BEST
TO
COOK
YOU...

NOW...



Chapter 59: Skyscraper Blues





A
PRES-
ENT?



BESIDES,
I'VE GOT A
PRESENT
COMING
FOR YOU
SOON.



YOU'RE
STAYING
HERE,
AND
YOU'RE
RESTING,
GOT IT?

OH,
HELL NO.
YOU'RE
NOT
GOING
ANY-
WHERE
AS
WOOTY
AS YOU
ARE.



YOU'RE
JUST
GOING
TO HAVE
TO WAIT
AND OPEN
IT FOR
YOUR-
SELF.

YEP!
AND I'M
NOT
TELLING
YOU
WHAT
IT IS,
EITHER.



A
VERY...
LONG
TIME
AGO.

MY
MOTHER
USED TO
DO SUCH
THINGS
FOR ME
ONCE,
A LONG
TIME
AGO.

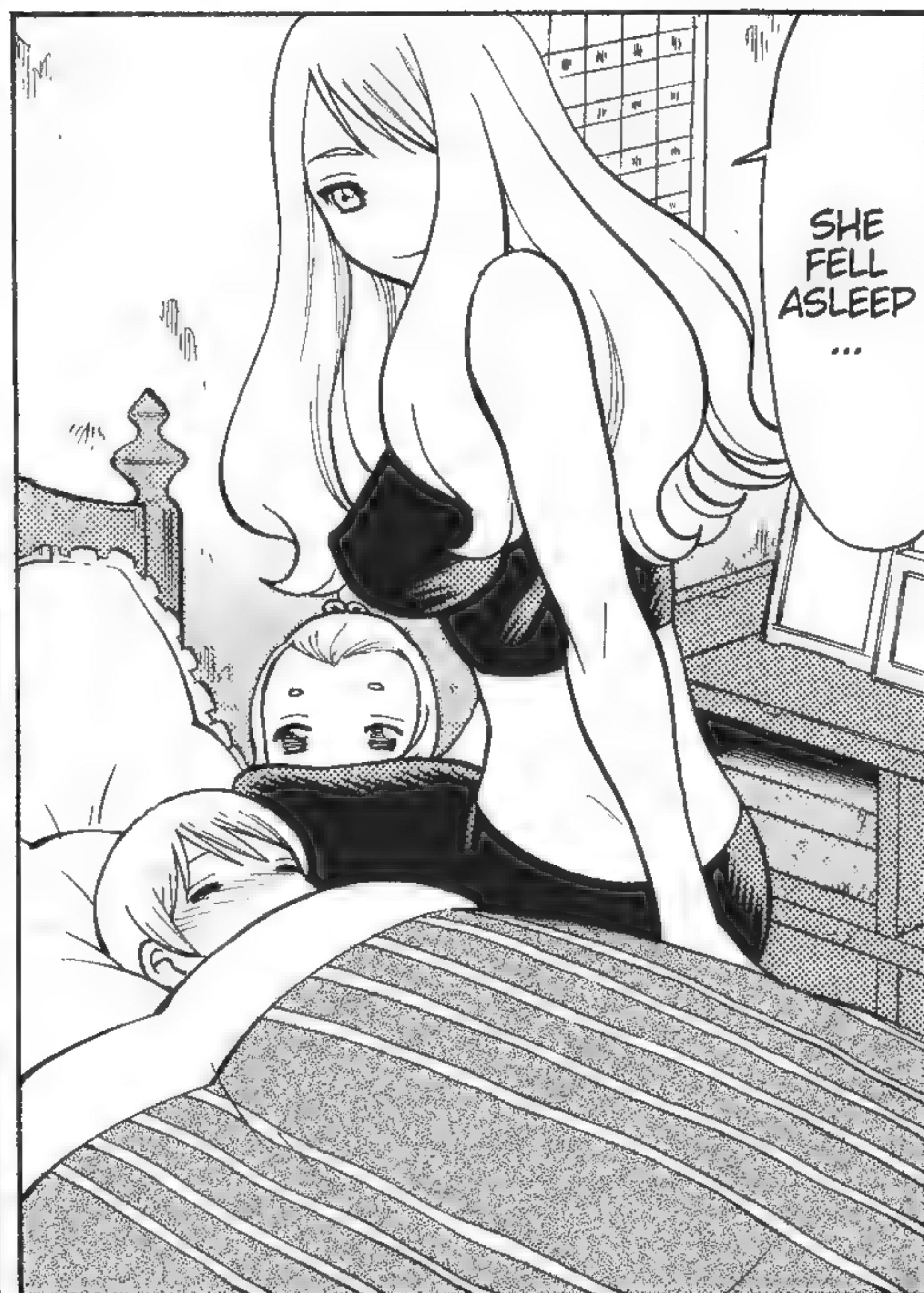


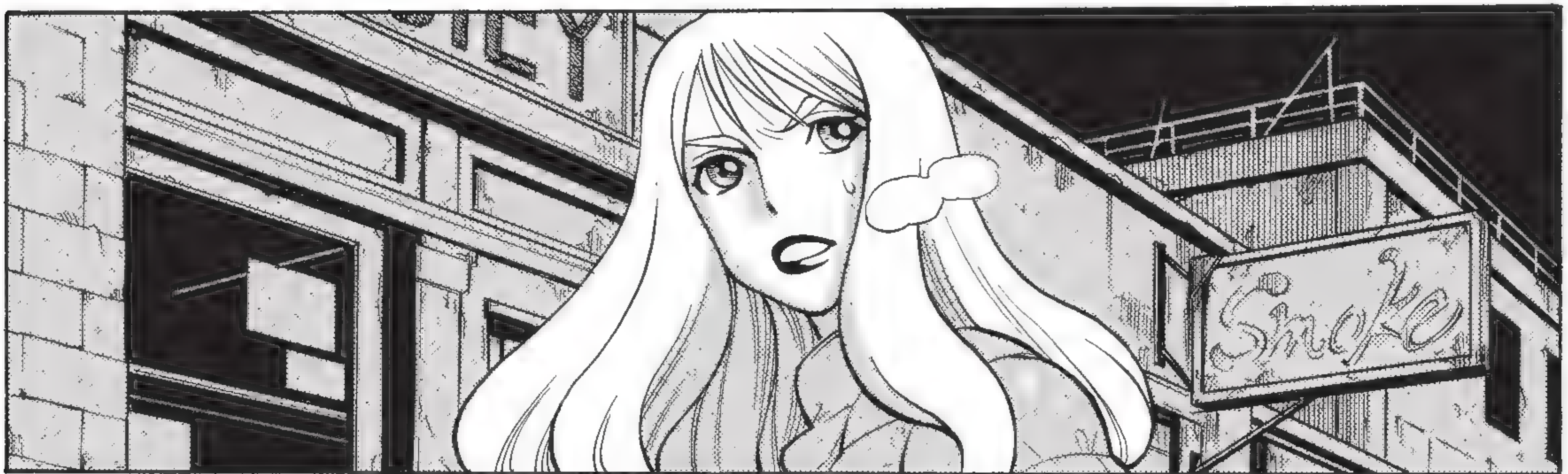
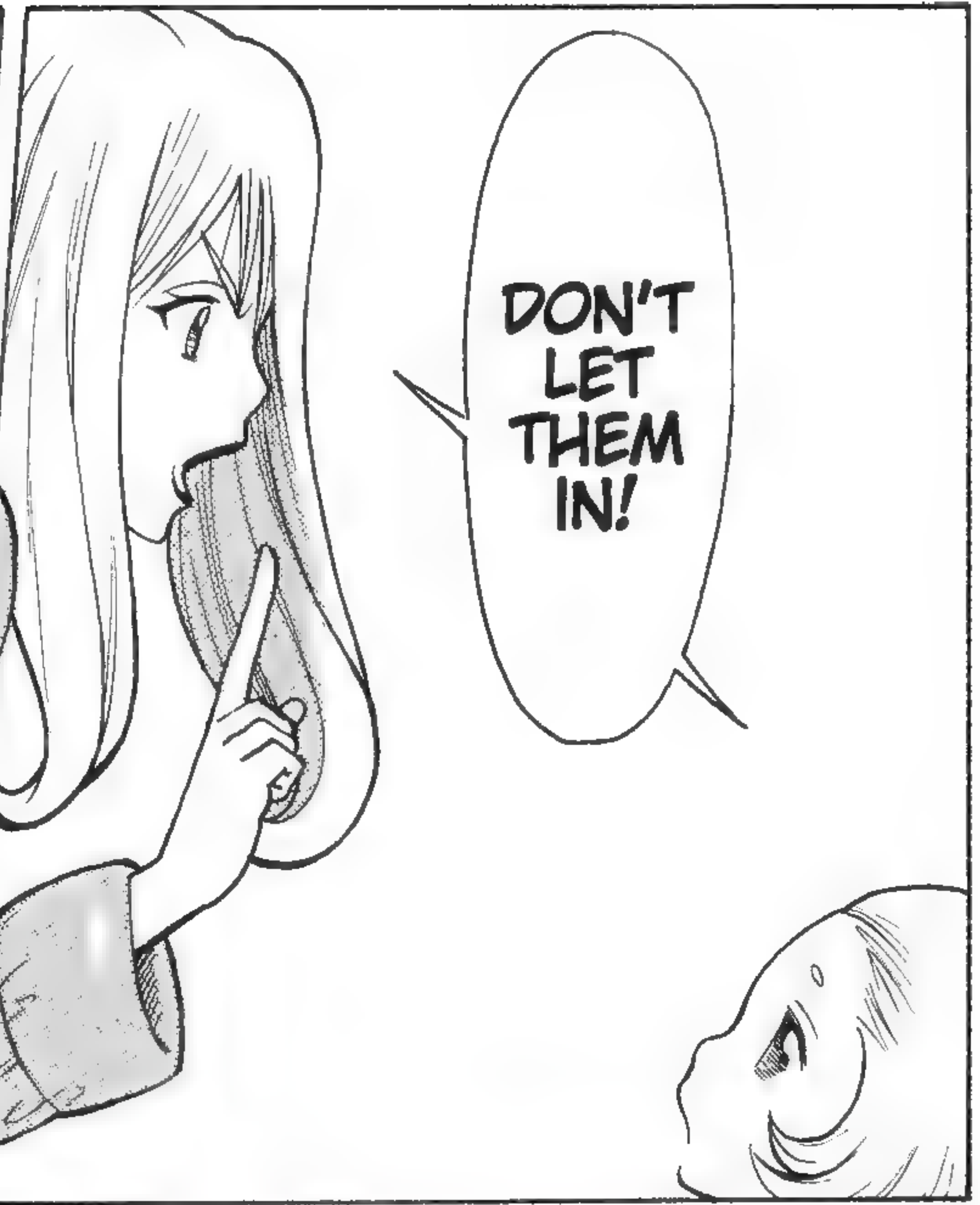
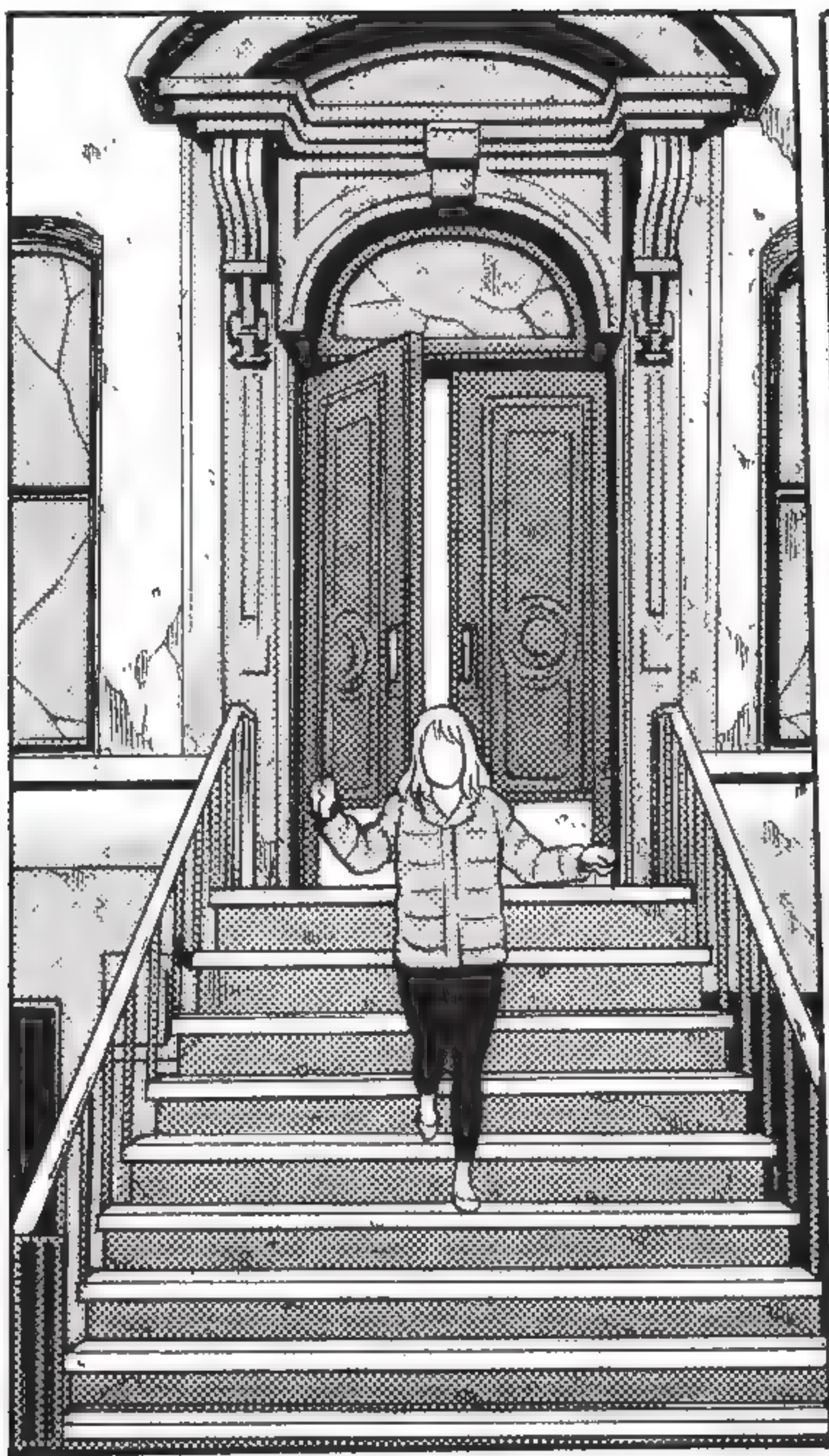
.....

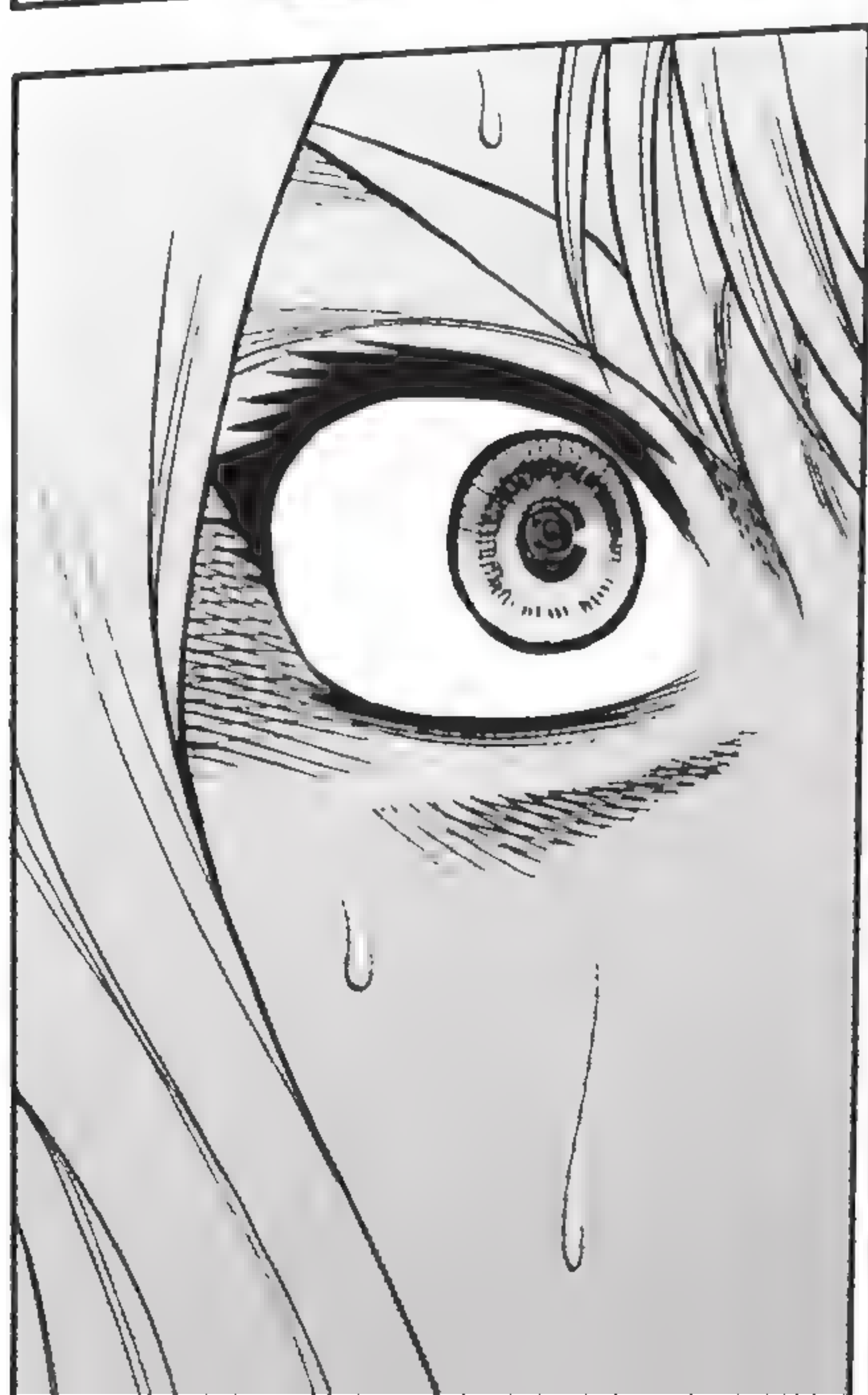
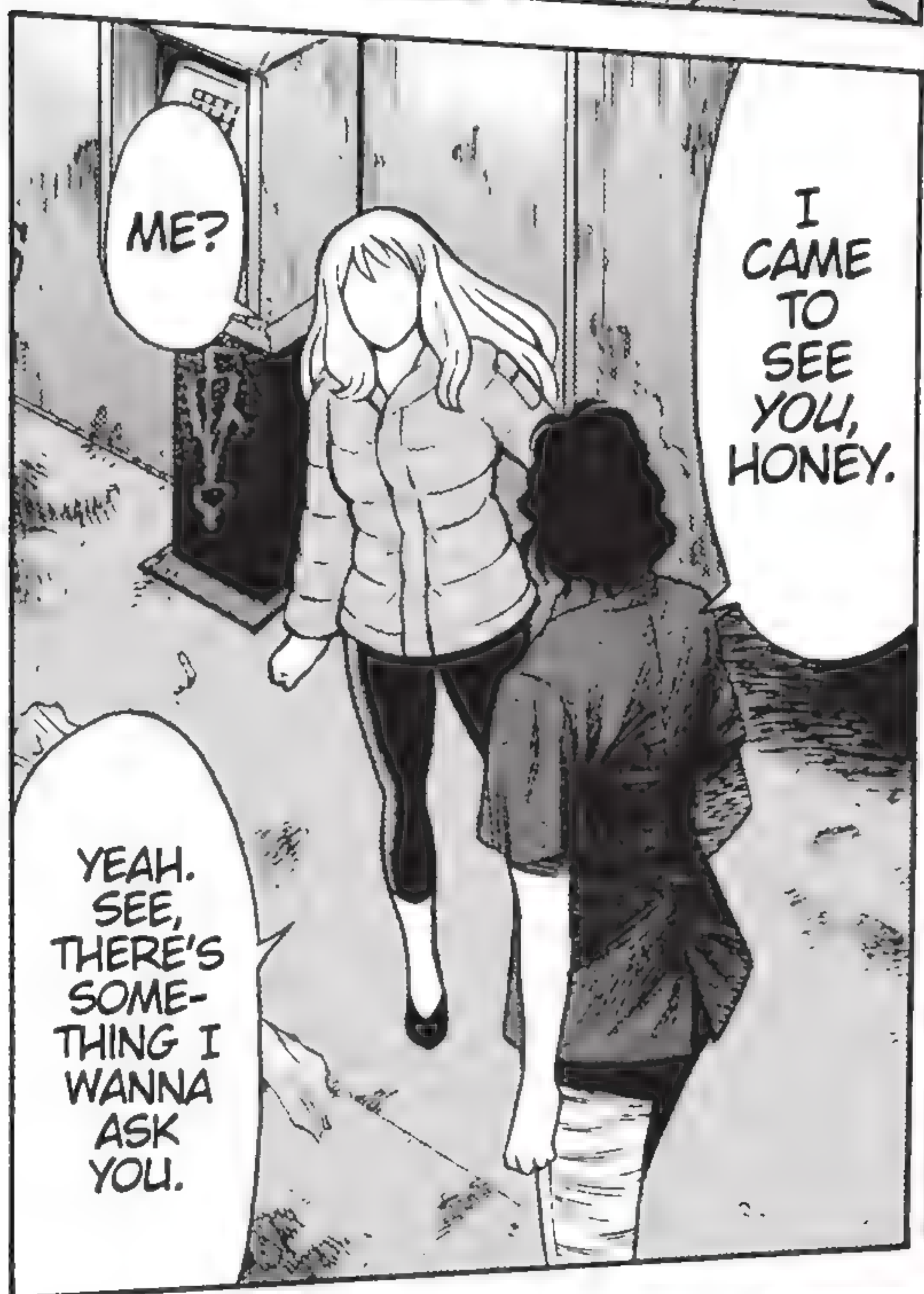


OH,
IT'S
NO-
THING.

HM?
WHAT
WAS
THAT
ALL
ABOUT
?









WHAT I
WANNA
KNOW IS
WHY.

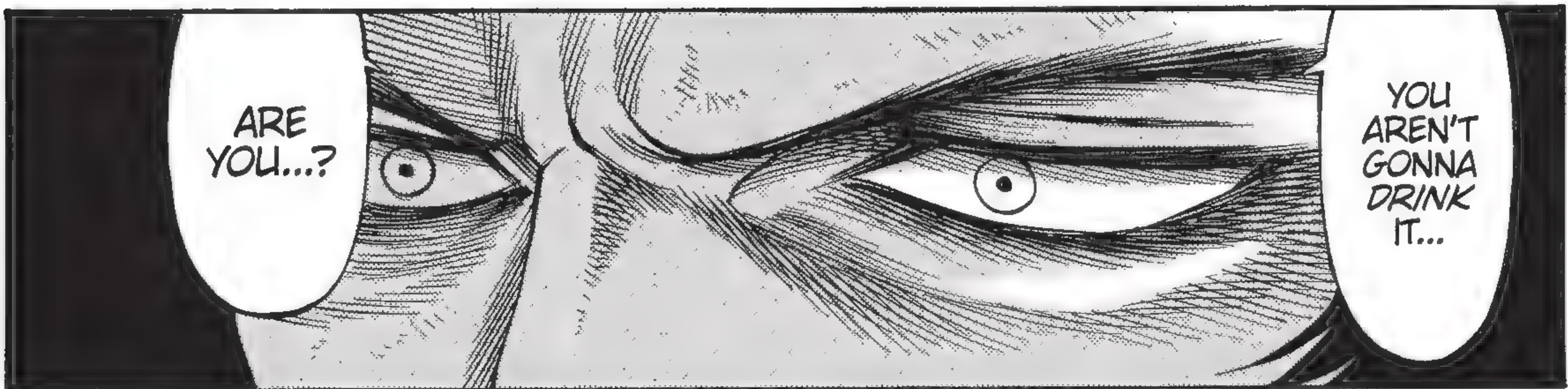
WHAT
ARE YOU
GOING TO
DO WITH
BLOOD?



ROSIE
TOLD
ME ALL
ABOUT
IT.



SHE WAS
VERY...
FORTH-
COMING.



ARE
YOU...?

YOU
AREN'T
GONNA
DRINK
IT...

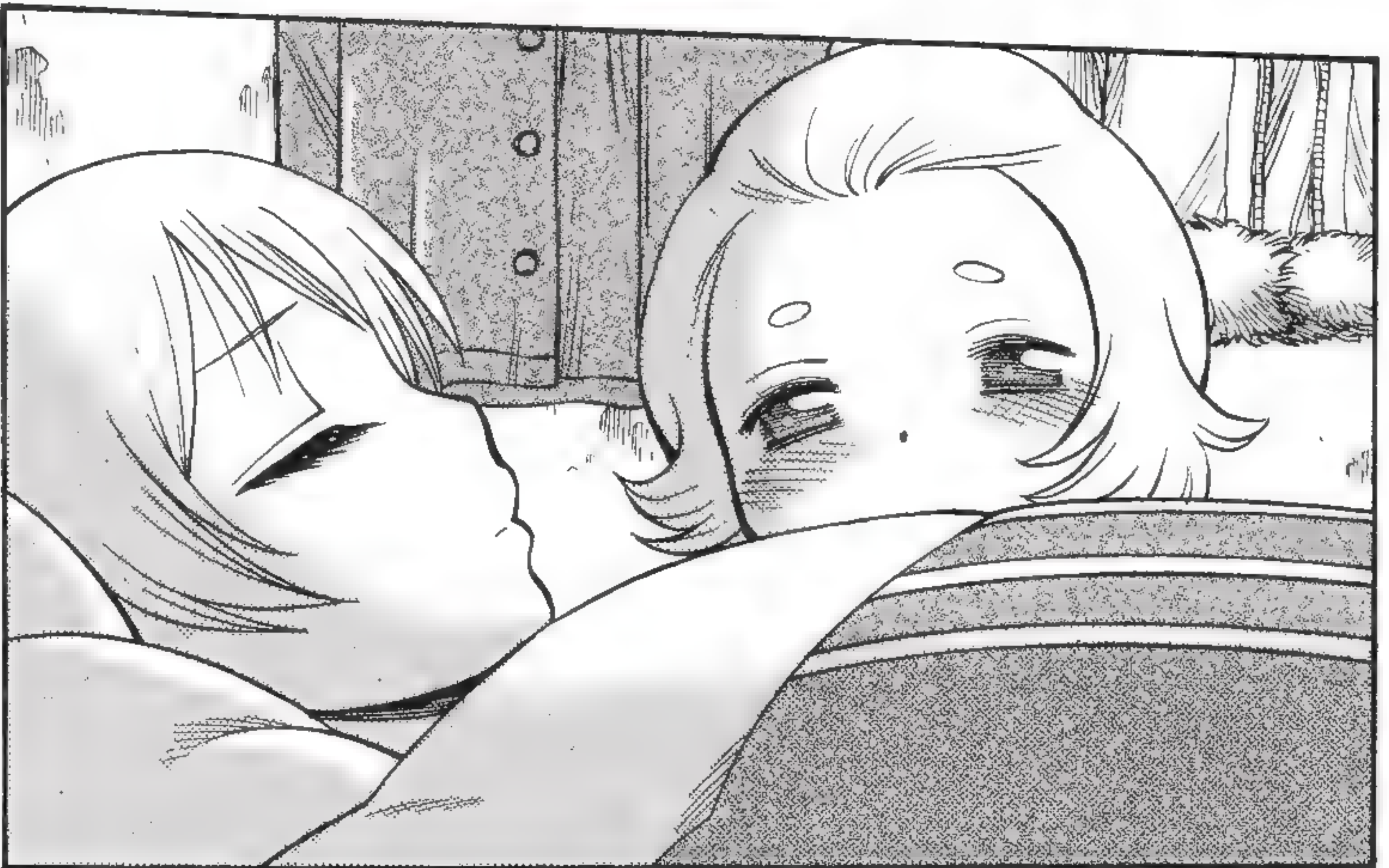
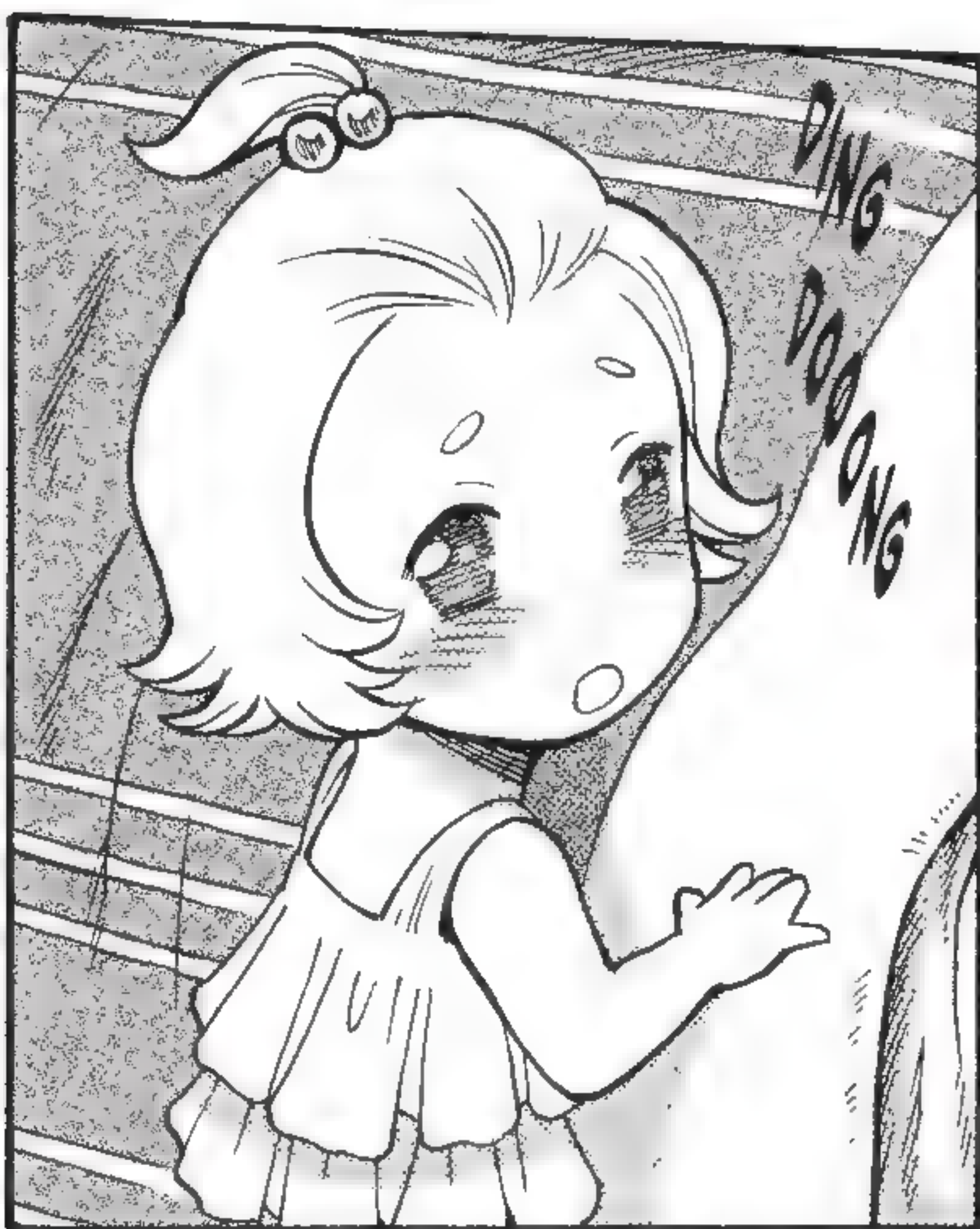
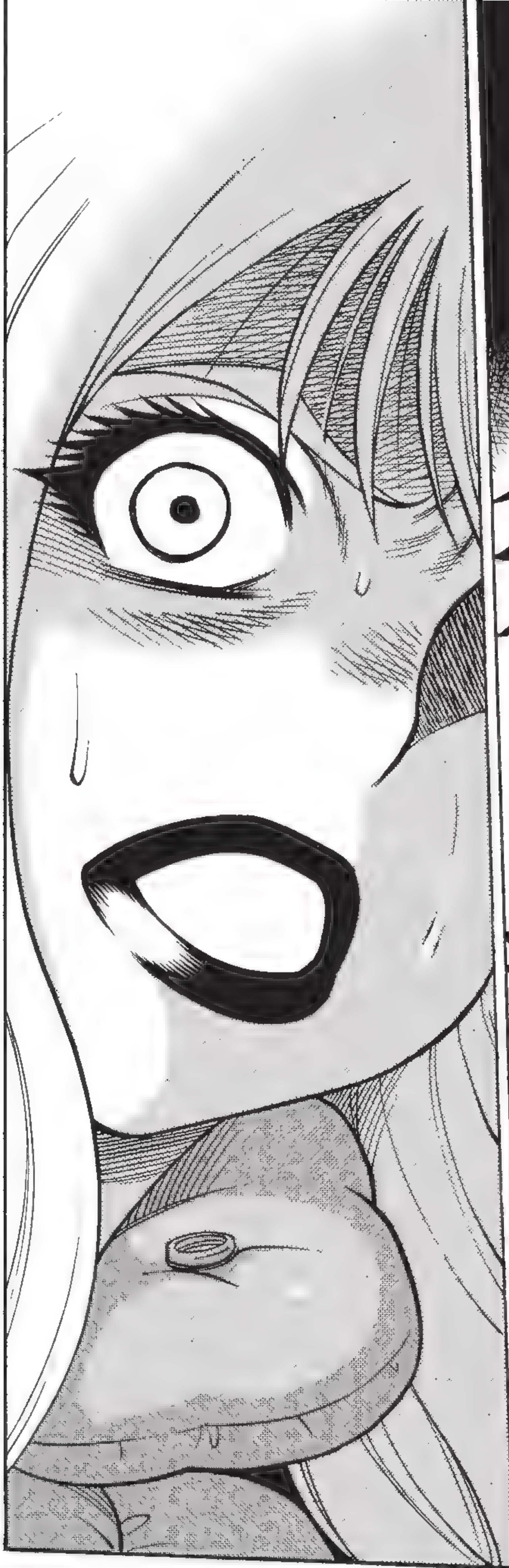


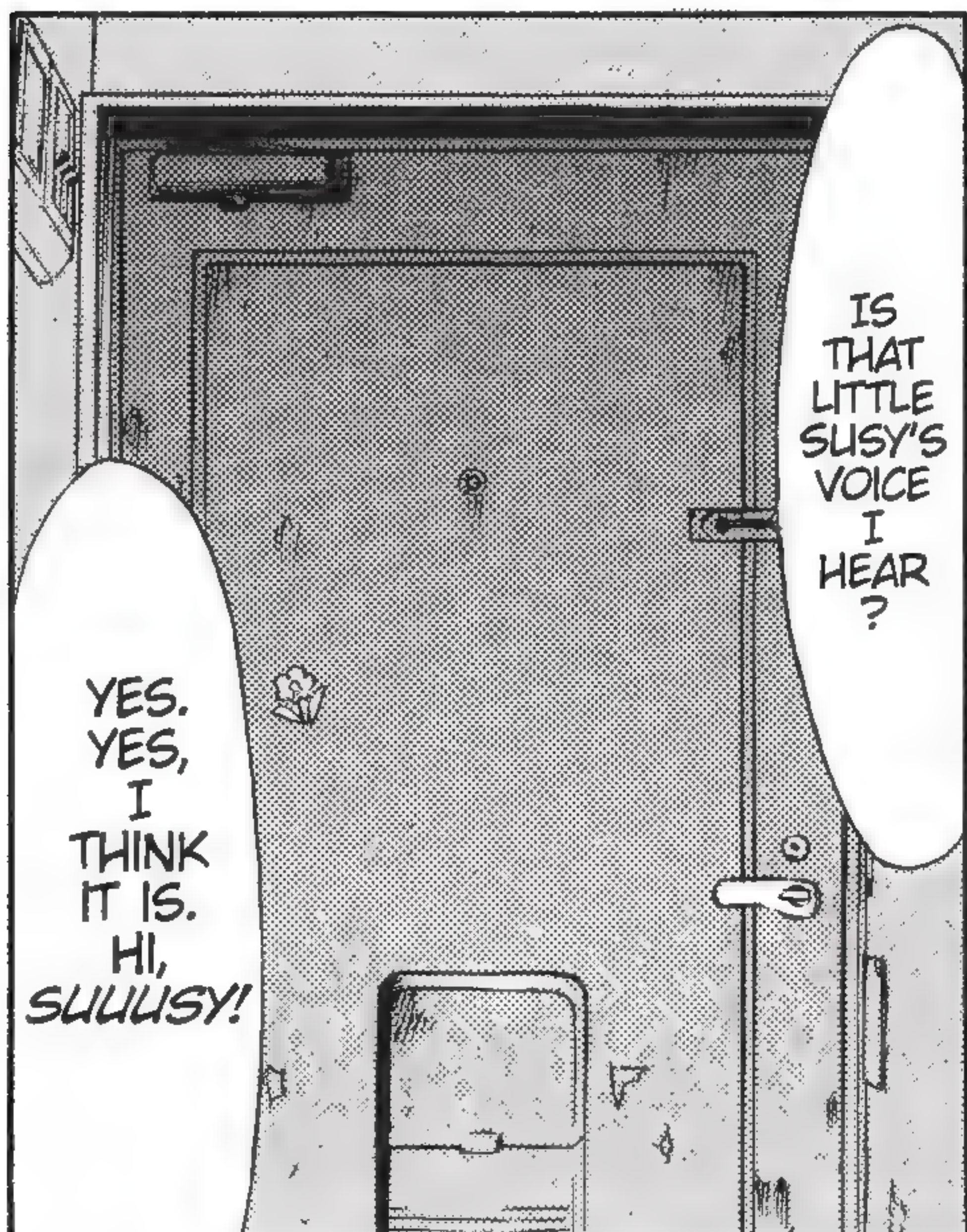
NONE
OF MY
BUSI-
NESS
...?



NONE
OF THIS
IS ANY
OF YOUR
BUSINESS,
SO BUTT
OUT
AND GET
LOST,
CREEP!!

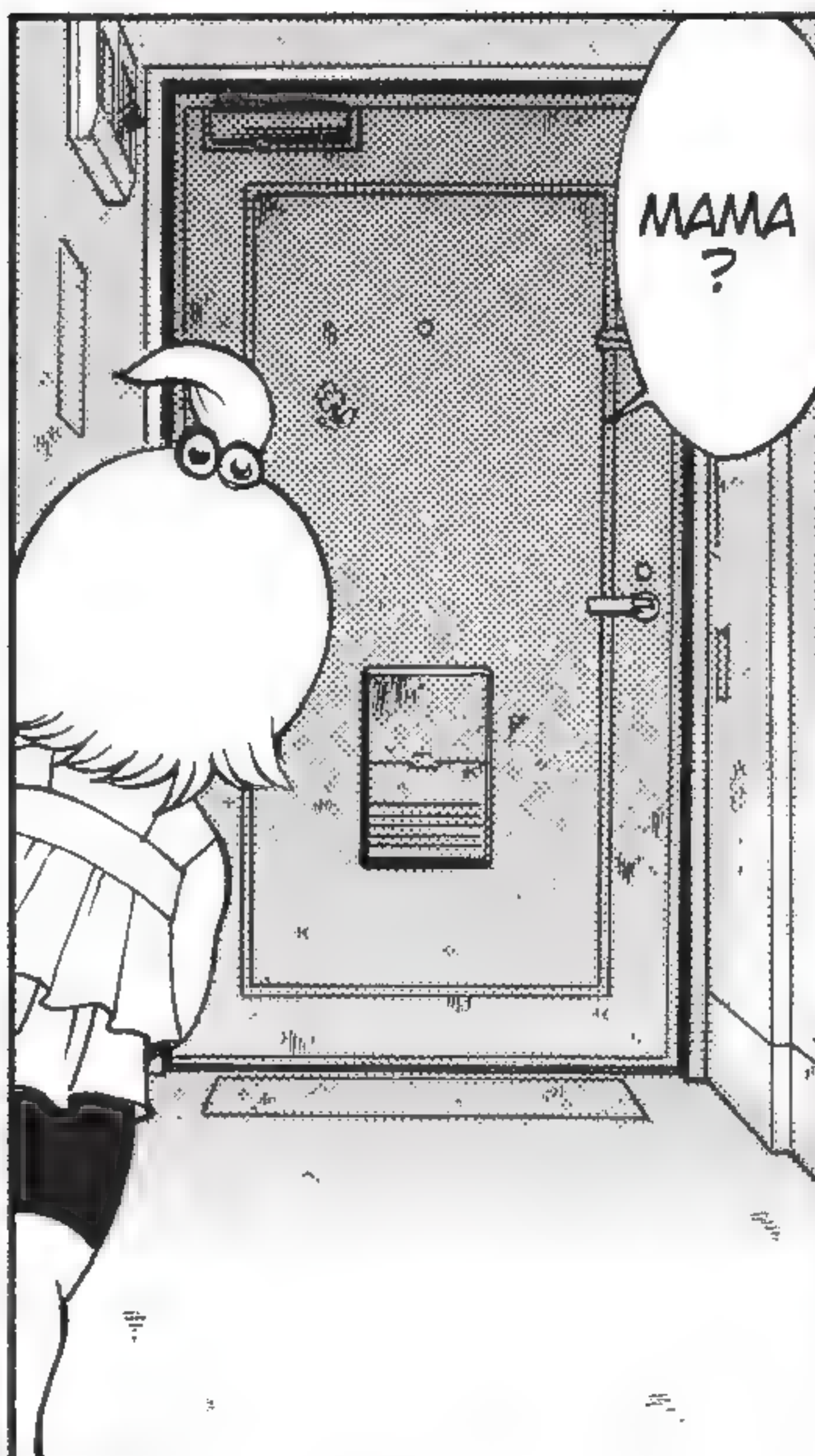
HELL NO!
DON'T BE
STUPID!
AND I'VE
GOT NO
OBLIGATION
TO TELL
YOU
ANYTHING!





IS THAT
LITTLE
SUSY'S
VOICE
I HEAR?

YES.
YES,
I
THINK
IT IS.
HI,
SUSUSY!



MAMA?



MAMA?

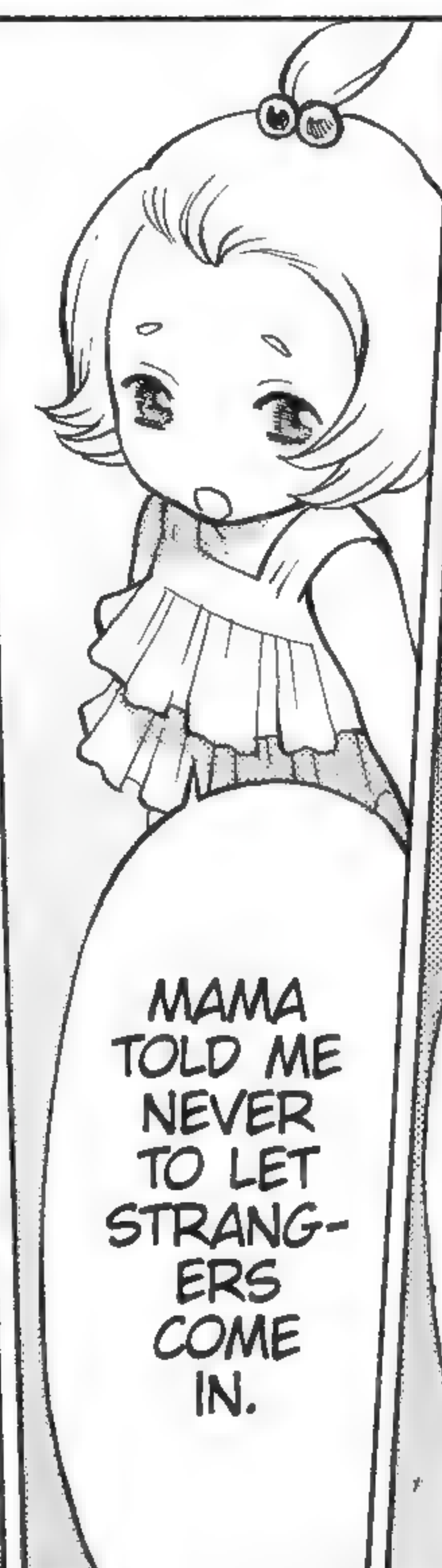


WHO
ARE
YOU,
MISTER?



BAM

TWITCH

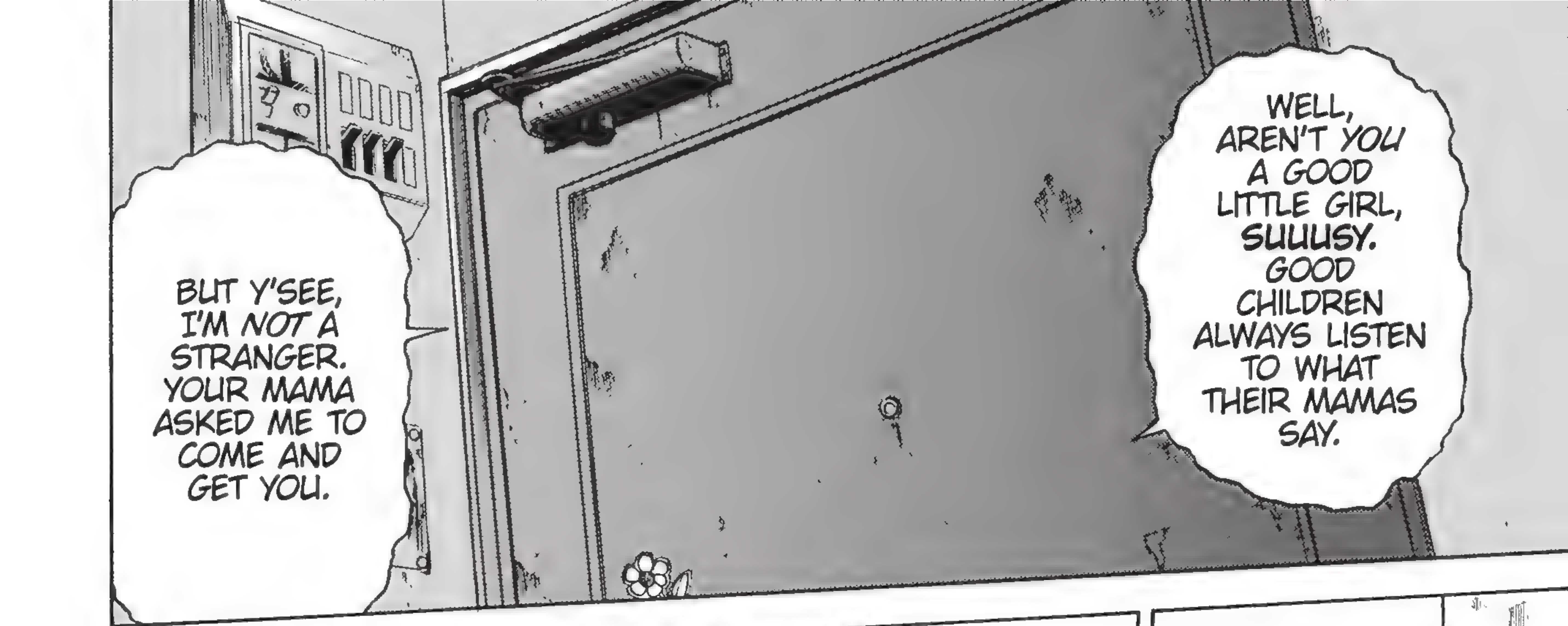


MAMA
TOLD ME
NEVER
TO LET
STRANG-
ERS
COME
IN.



I'M ONE
OF YOUR
MAMA'S
FRIENDS.

WOULD
YOU
OPEN THE
DOOR
AND LET
ME IN,
PRETTY
PLEASE?



BUT Y'SEE,
I'M NOT A
STRANGER.
YOUR MAMA
ASKED ME TO
COME AND
GET YOU.

WELL,
AREN'T YOU
A GOOD
LITTLE GIRL,
SUUSY.
GOOD
CHILDREN
ALWAYS LISTEN
TO WHAT
THEIR MAMAS
SAY.



BUT...

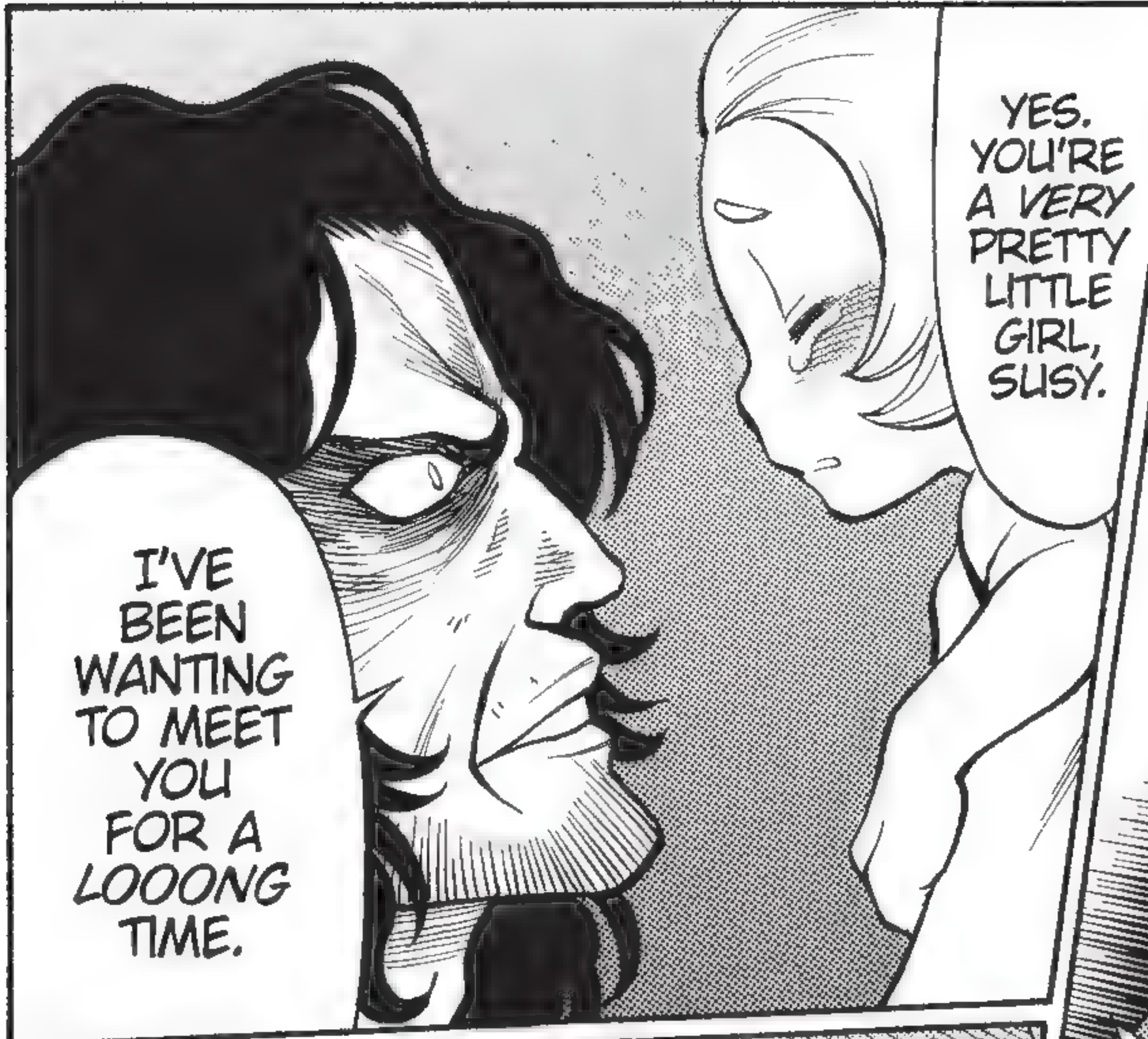
SHE SAID
NEVER
OPEN THE
DOOR...

YES.
YOU ARE
A VERY
GOOD GIRL.
I THINK
I LIKE
YOU...



HI
THERE,
SUSY.

YOU'RE
EVEN
PRETTIER
THAN I
THOUGHT.



I'VE
BEEN
WANTING
TO MEET
YOU
FOR A
LOOONG
TIME.

YES.
YOU'RE
A VERY
PRETTY
LITTLE
GIRL,
SUSY.



NOW,
WHY
DON'T YOU
GIMME A
LITTLE
KISS...?



CHECK
THE
BACK!

CHECK
EVERY
GODDAMN
ROOM
IN THIS
SHIT
HOLE!!

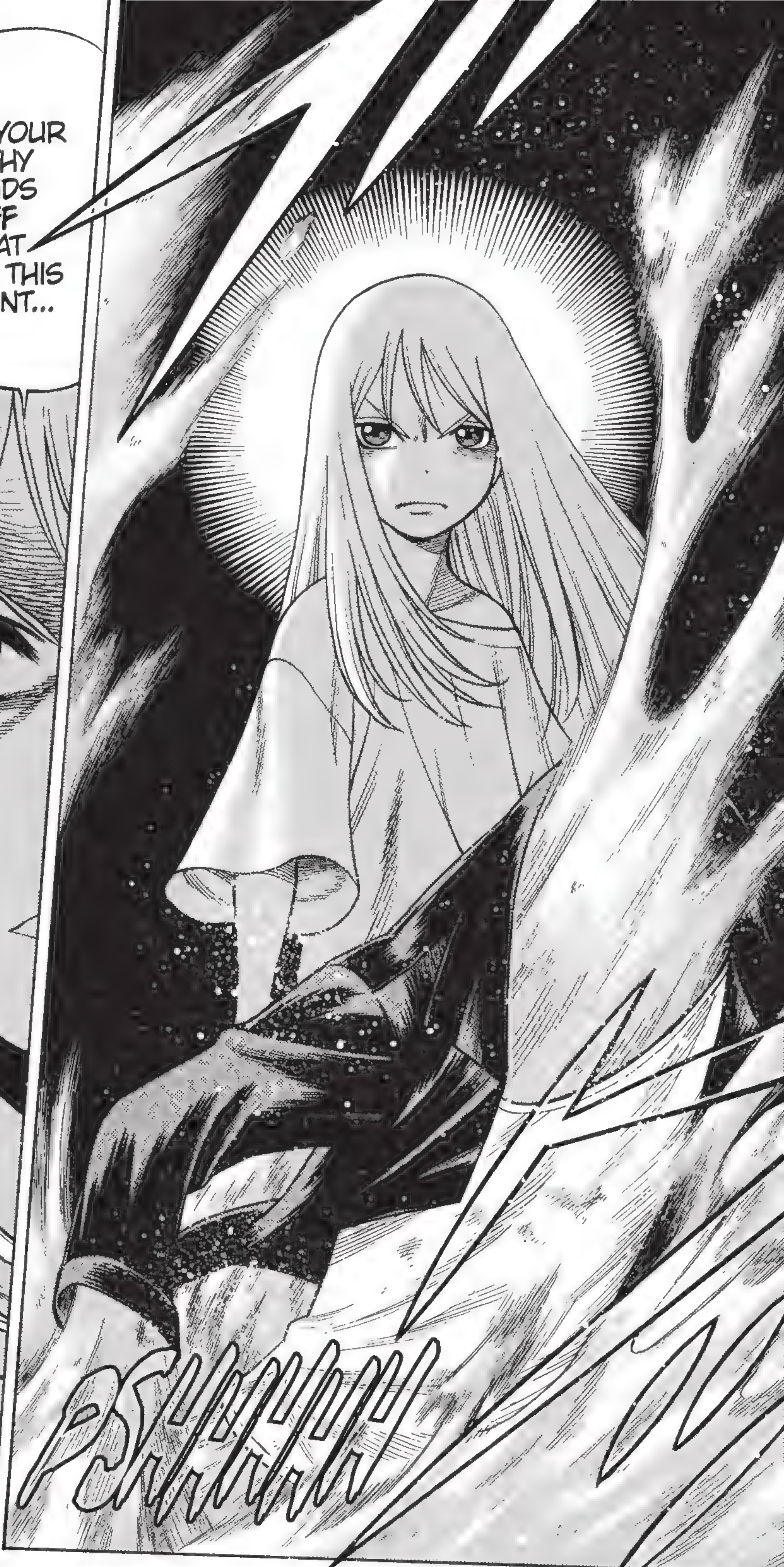
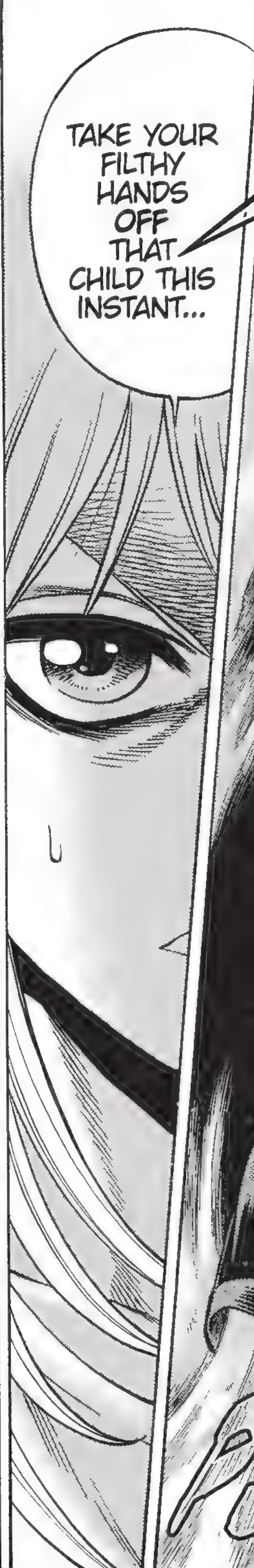


GHUH
...

AAH
...

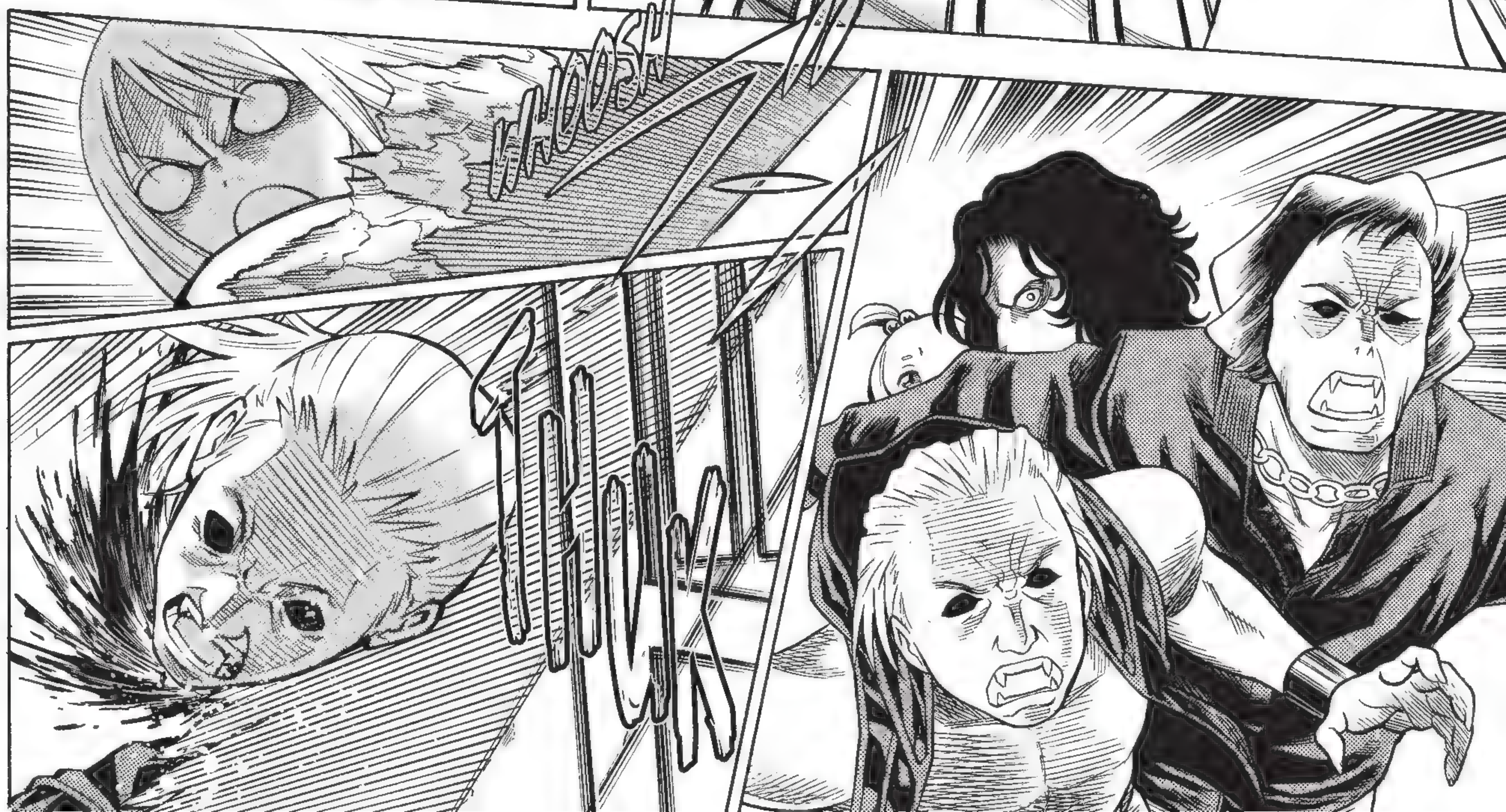


		1	2
6	7	8	
13	14	15	1
20	21	22	2
27	28	29	





TAKE
YOUR
HANDS
OFF OF
HER!!







UNTIL THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER CAN BE DETERMINED, THE INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION WILL RETAIN THE GIRL AS A PERSON OF INTEREST.

NEW EVIDENCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE INCIDENT OF HER MAJESTY'S POISONING BY NANOMACHINES HAS ARISEN. THIS EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THE HUMAN GIRL MAY HAVE BEEN MORE INVOLVED THAN PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED.

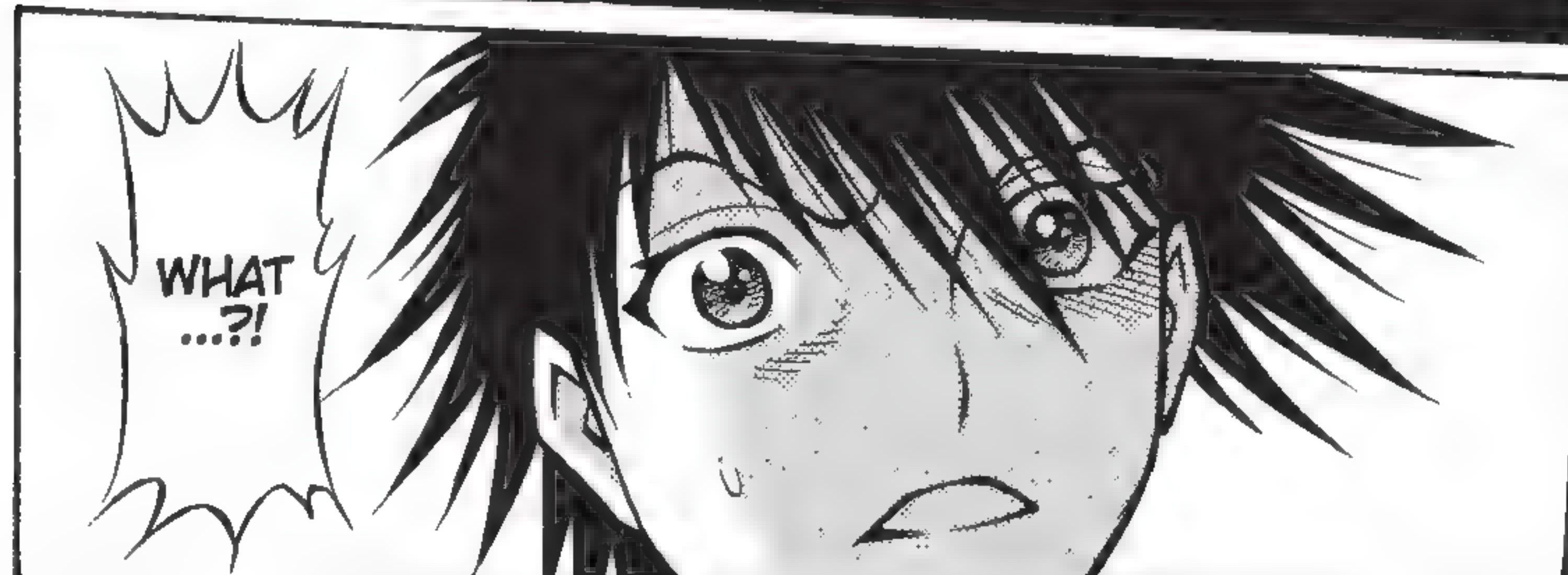


WHAT THE HELL ?!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YUKI'S UNDER ARREST ?!



AND IT WAS HER MAJESTY HERSELF WHO DECLARED THE NEED FOR THE CASE TO BE REOPENED AND RE-EXAMINED.



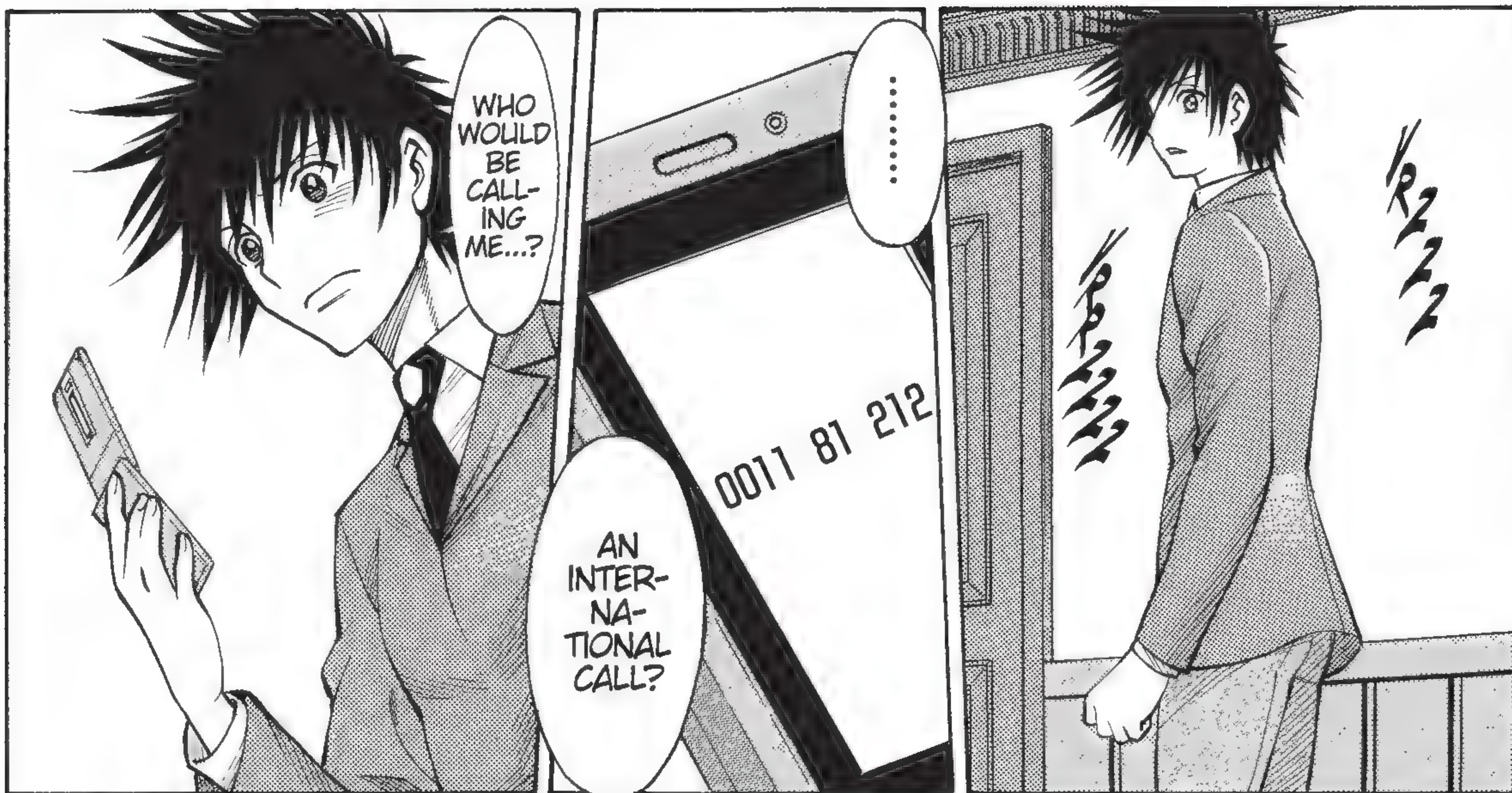
WHAT ...?!



YOU'VE GOTTA BE KID-DING ME!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL HERE?! THAT CASE WAS CLOSED AND BURIED AGES AGO. HIME-SAN HERSELF STOOD WITNESS TO YUKI'S INNOCENCE!





A...

HELLO
...?

HELLOOO?
IS
ANYBODY
THERE?

A...

A...

HELLO
?

THIS IS
KABURAGI
AKIRA'S
CELL
PHONE.



HIME-SAN,
ARE YOU
THERE
?!

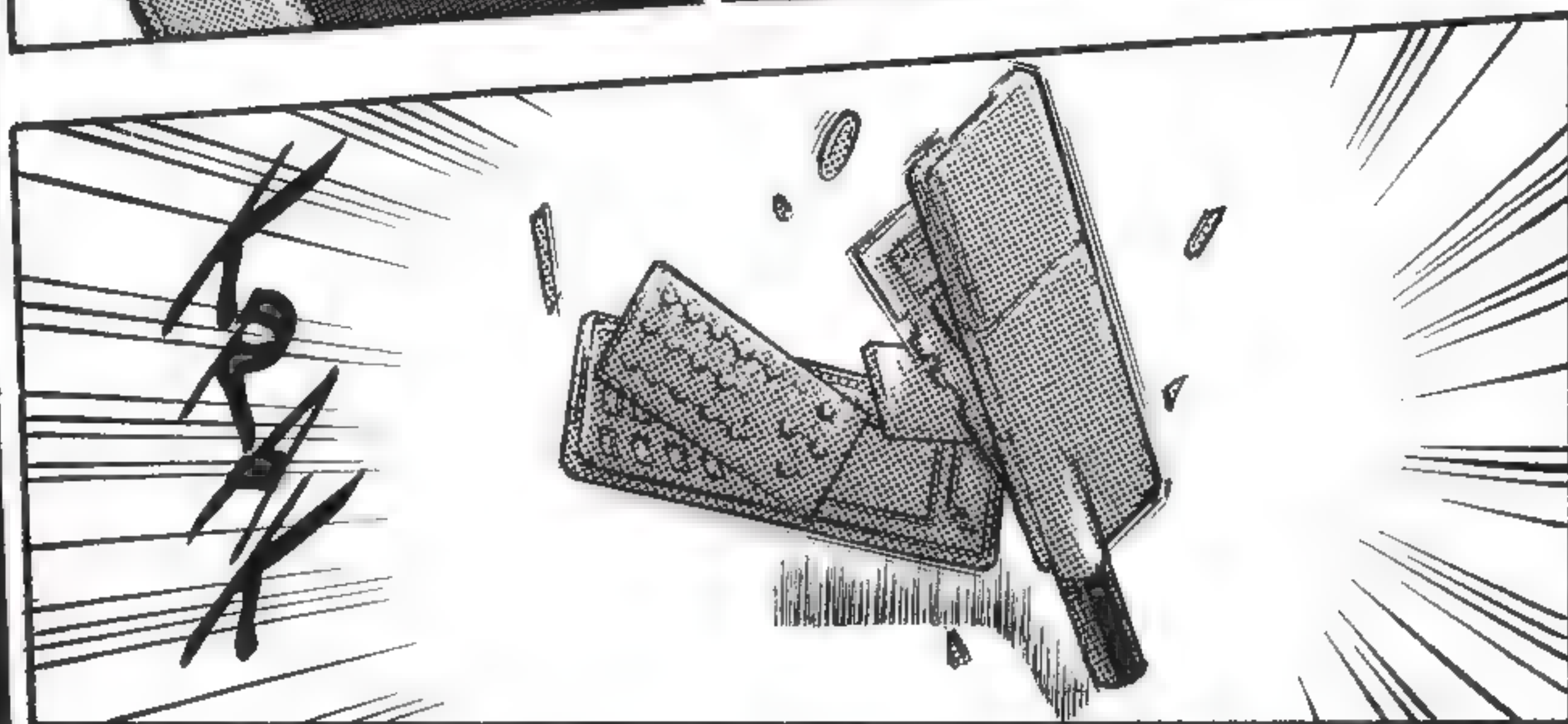
WHAT'S
WRONG?!
WHERE
ARE YOU
CALLING
FROM?!

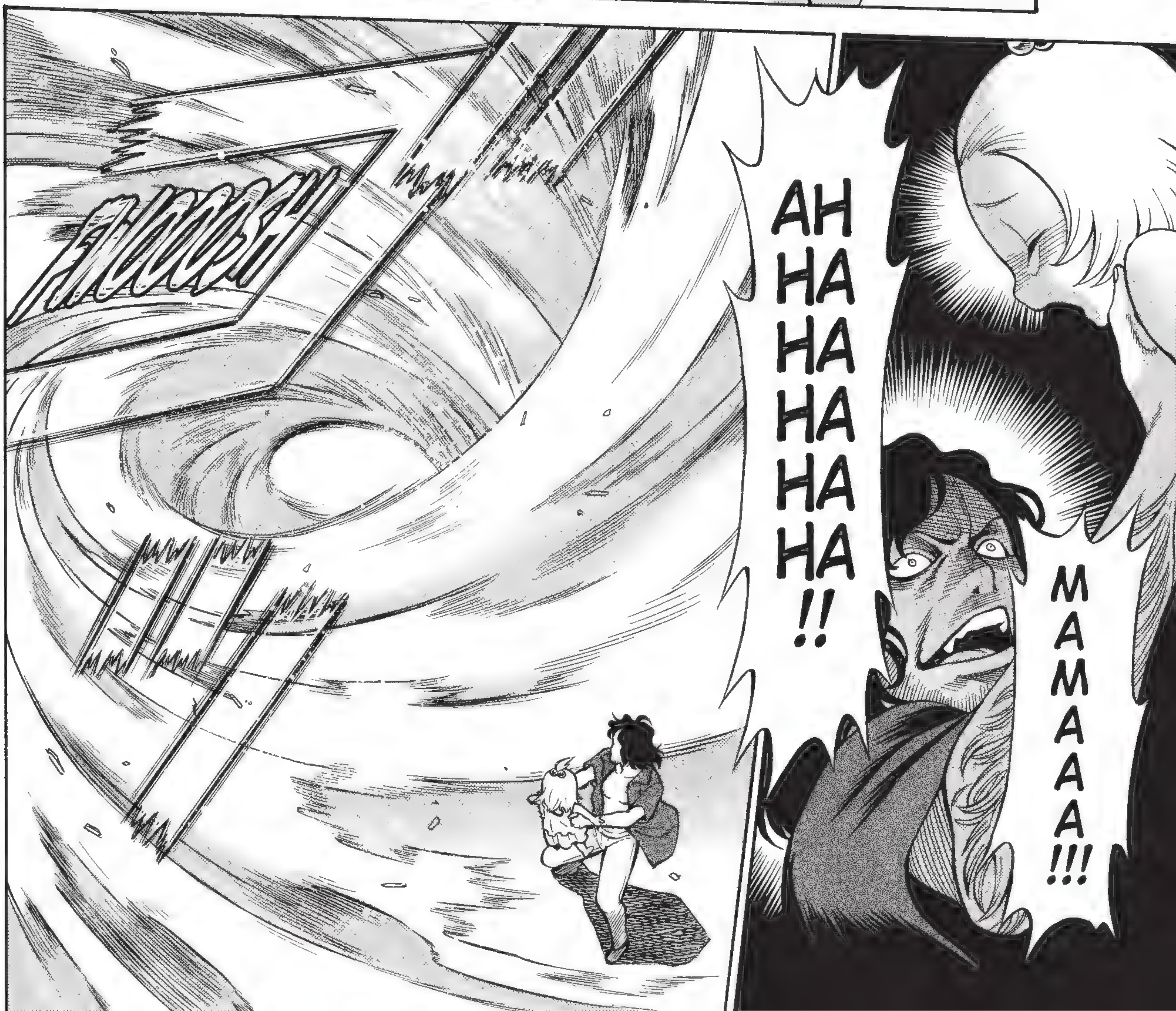
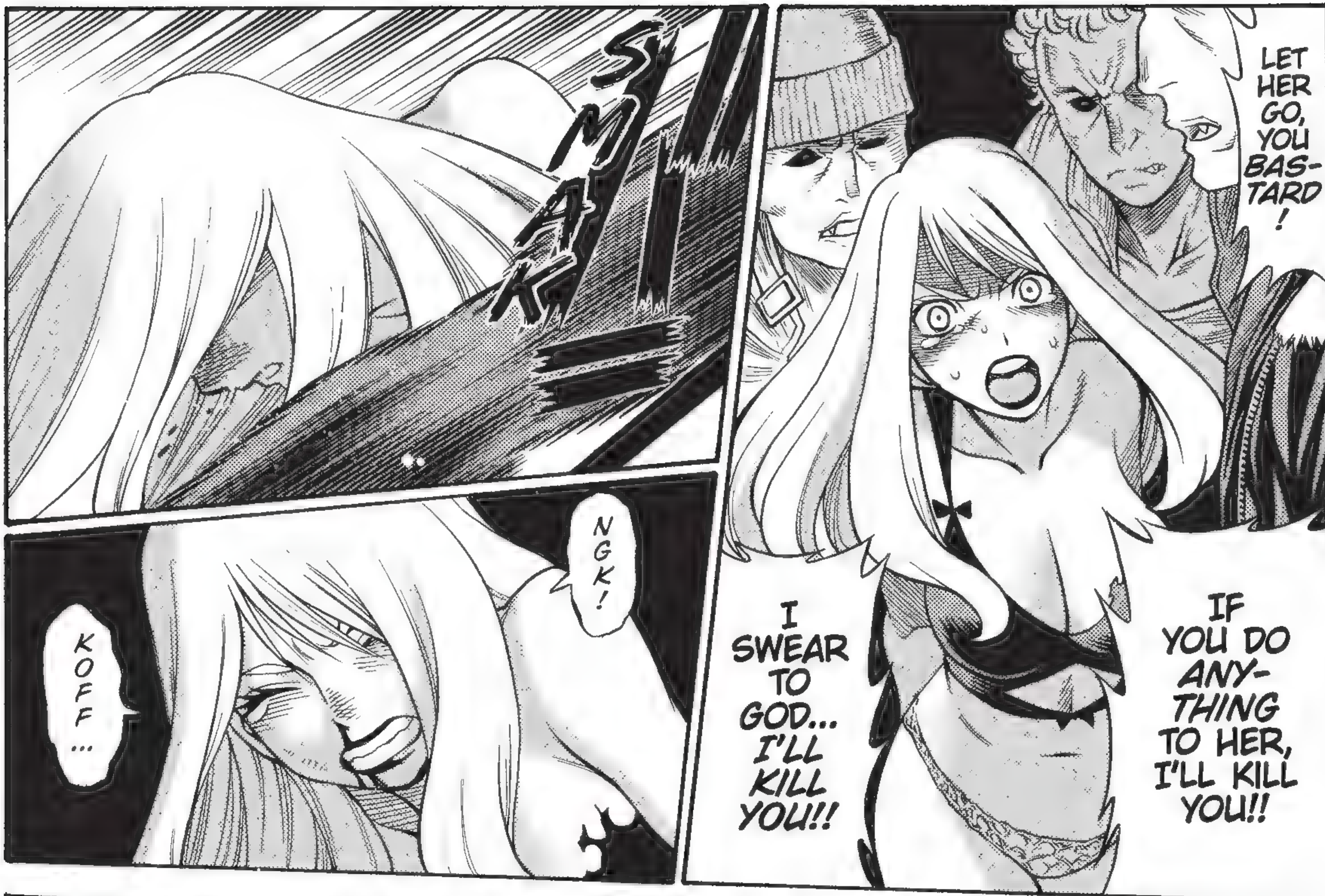


HIME-
SAN?



AKIRAAA!!

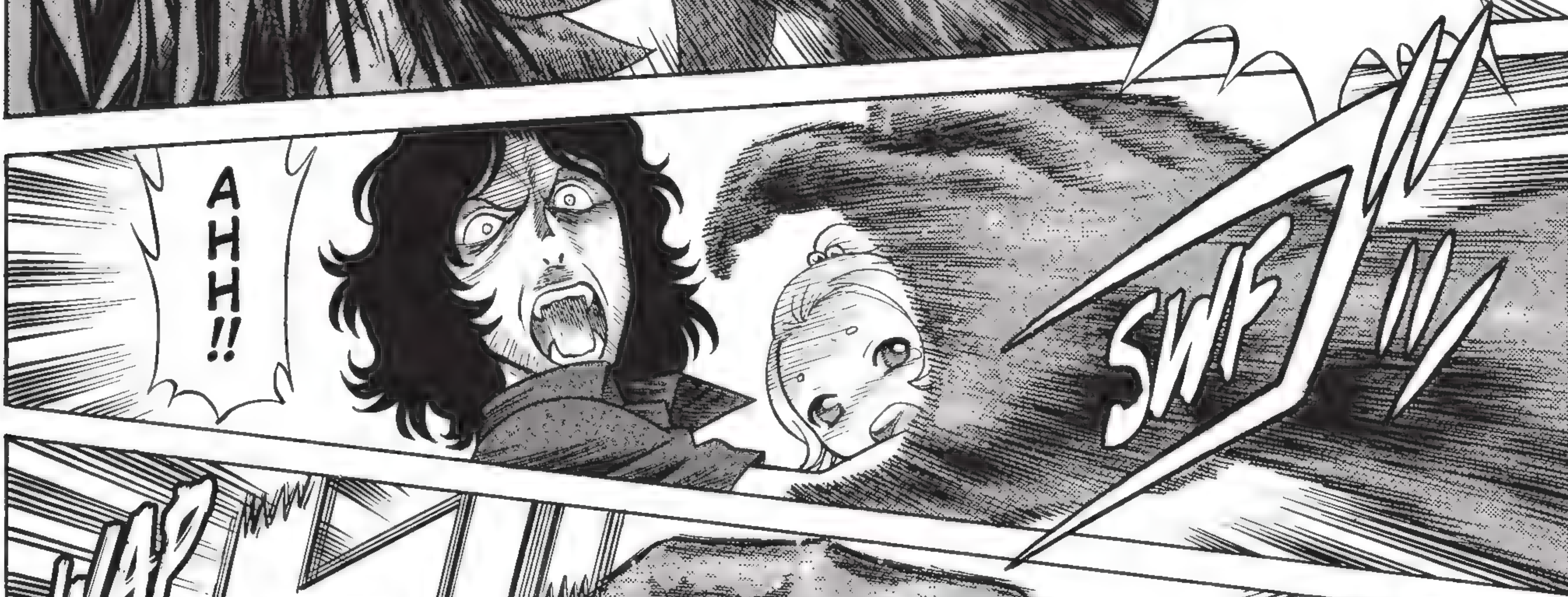
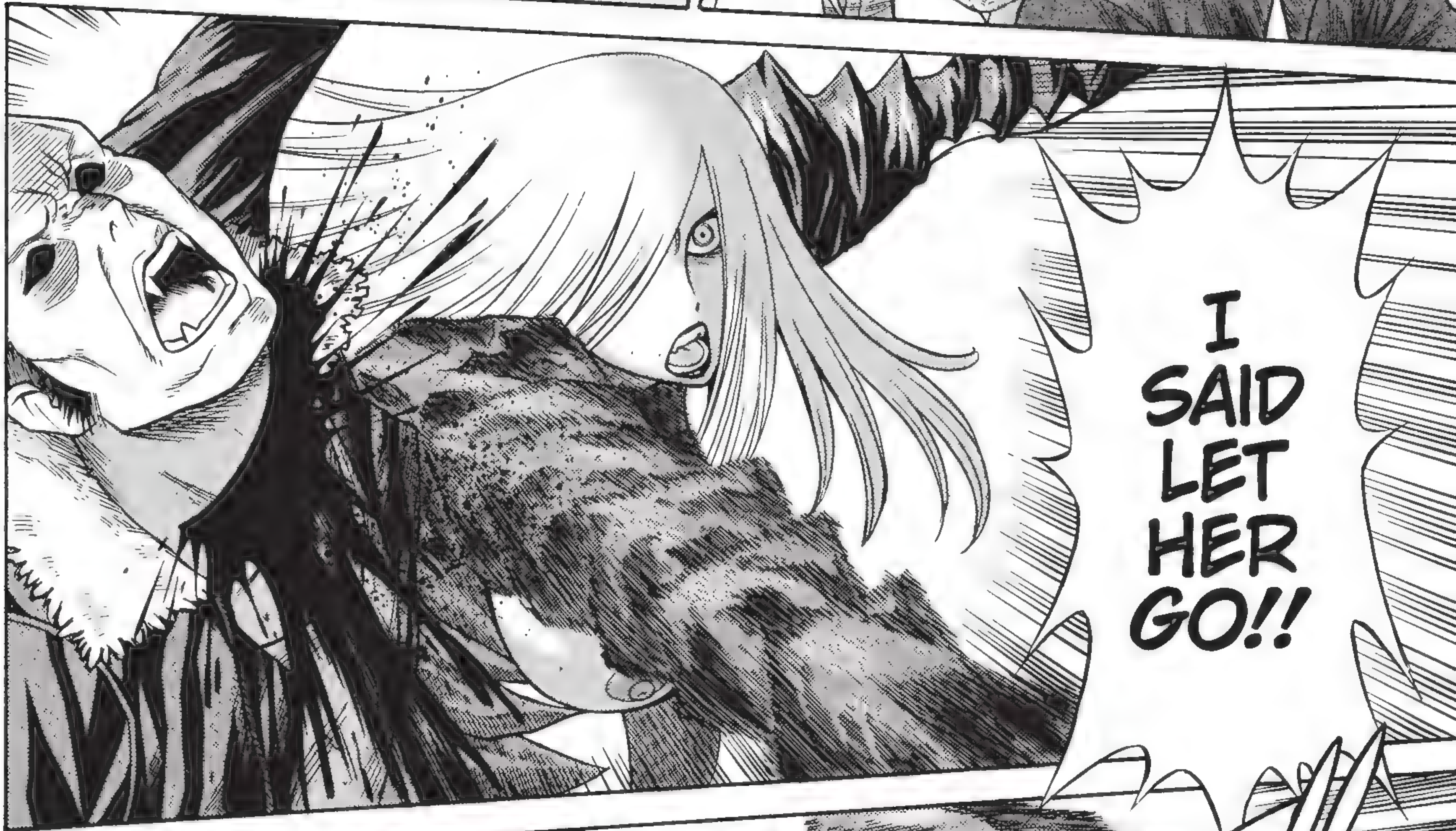


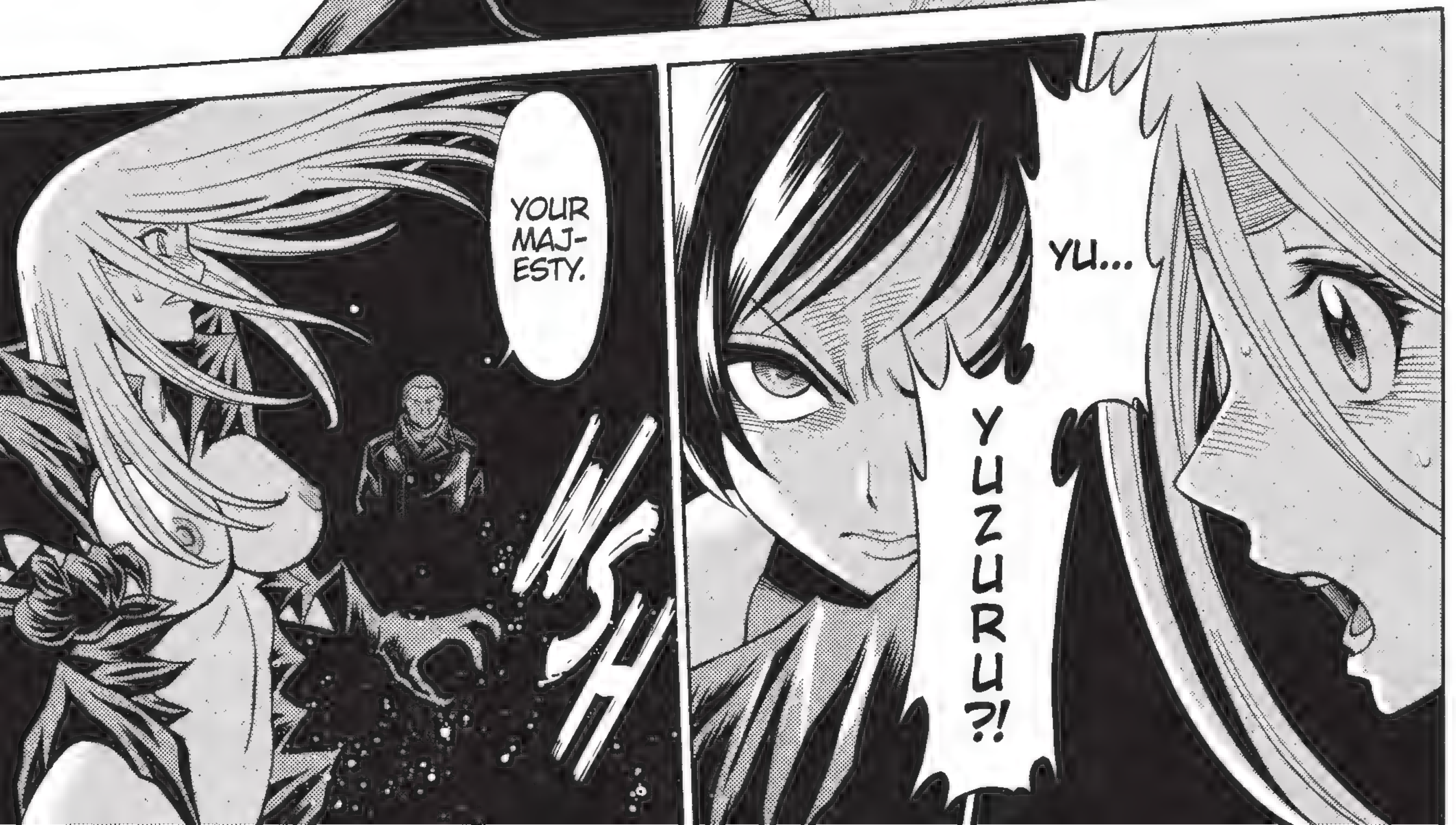


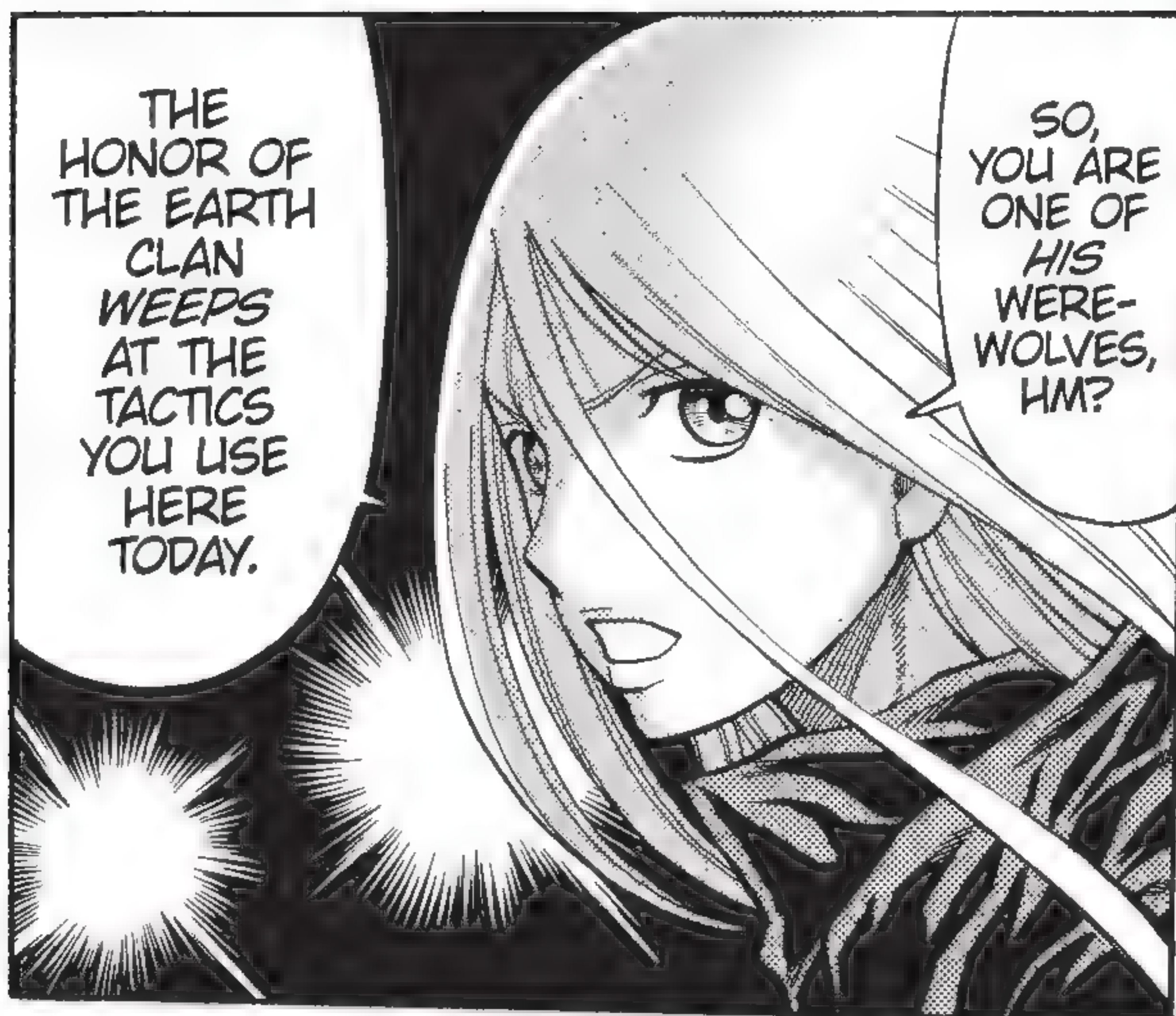


THE
HELL
...?

FINISH







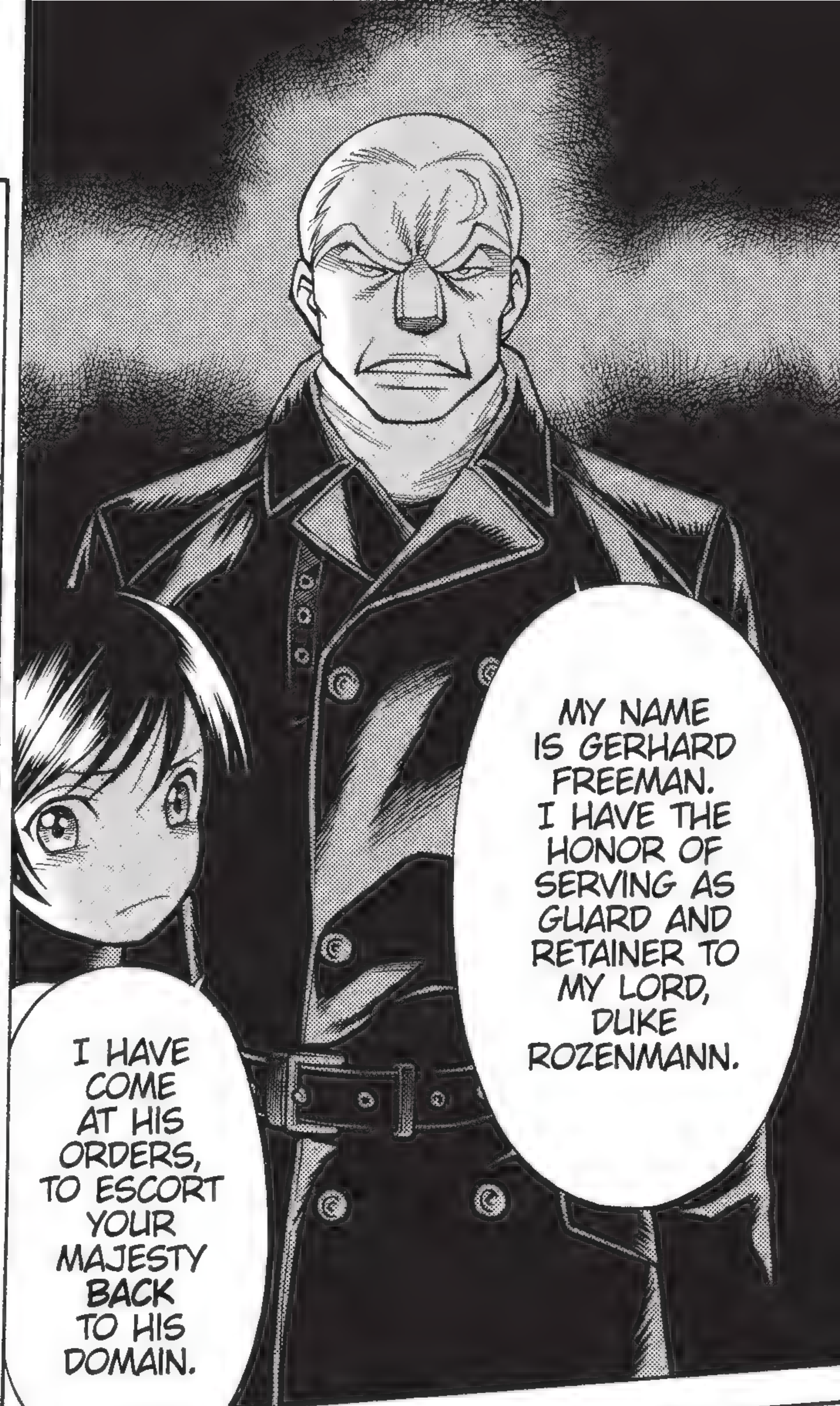
THE
HONOR OF
THE EARTH
CLAN
WEEPS
AT THE
TACTICS
YOU USE
HERE
TODAY.

SO,
YOU ARE
ONE OF
HIS
WERE-
WOLVES,
HM?



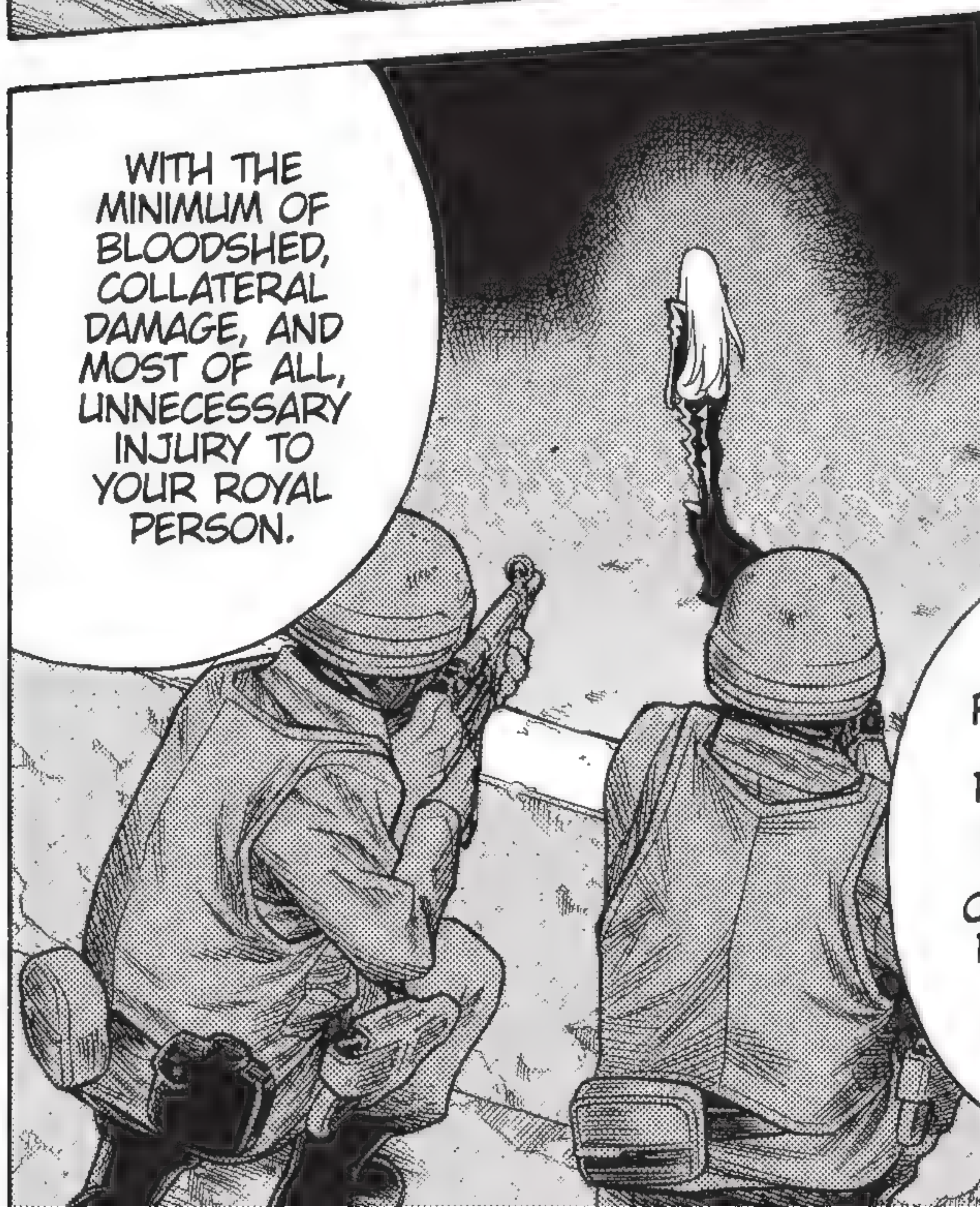
HOWEVER,
YOUR
POWER IS
GREAT,
YOUR
MAJESTY,
AND WE
FEAR IT
MUCH.

YOUR
WORDS
ARE
TRUTH,
YOUR
MAJESTY.
IT PAINS
ME TO
HEAR
THEM...



MY NAME
IS GERHARD
FREEMAN.
I HAVE THE
HONOR OF
SERVING AS
GUARD AND
RETAINER TO
MY LORD,
DUKE
ROZENMANN.

I HAVE
COME
AT HIS
ORDERS,
TO ESCORT
YOUR
MAJESTY
BACK
TO HIS
DOMAIN.

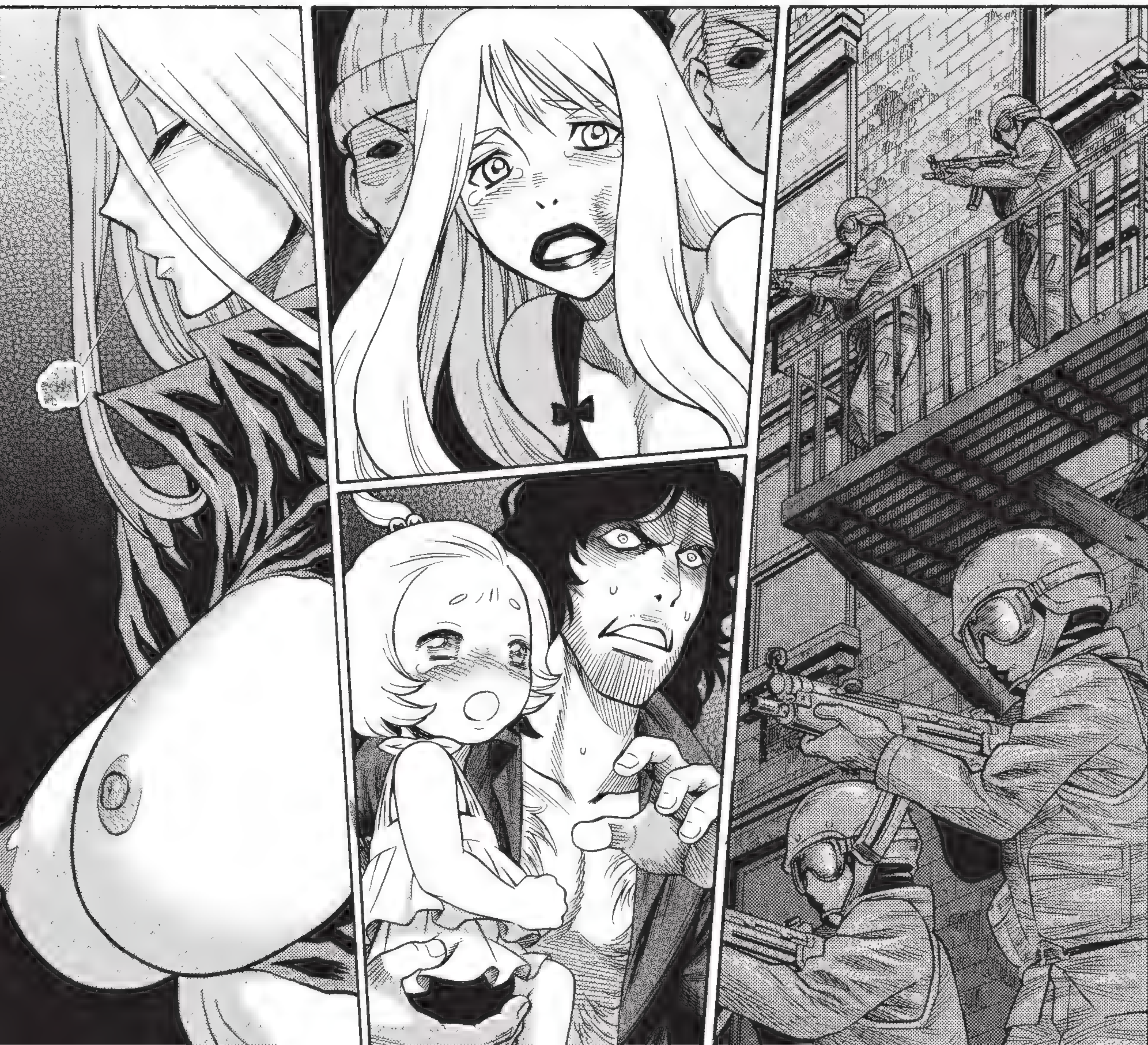
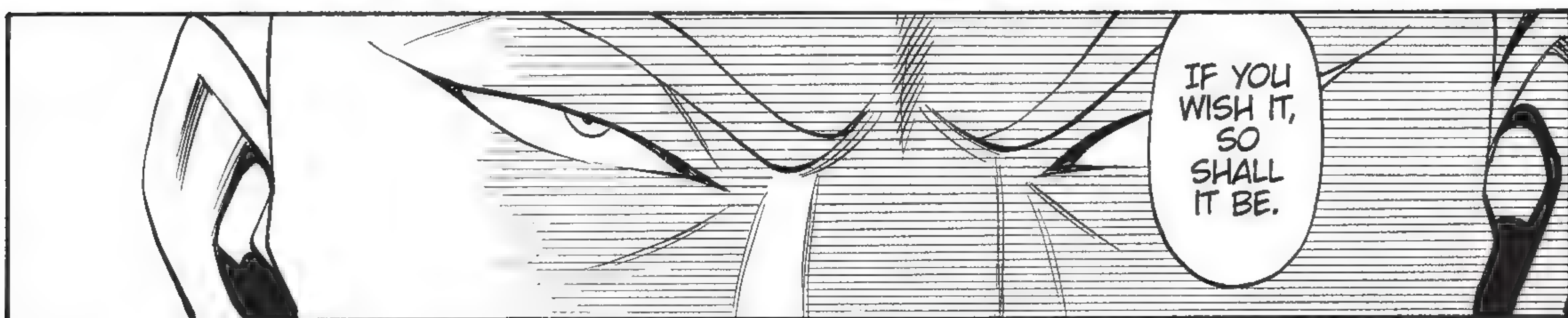


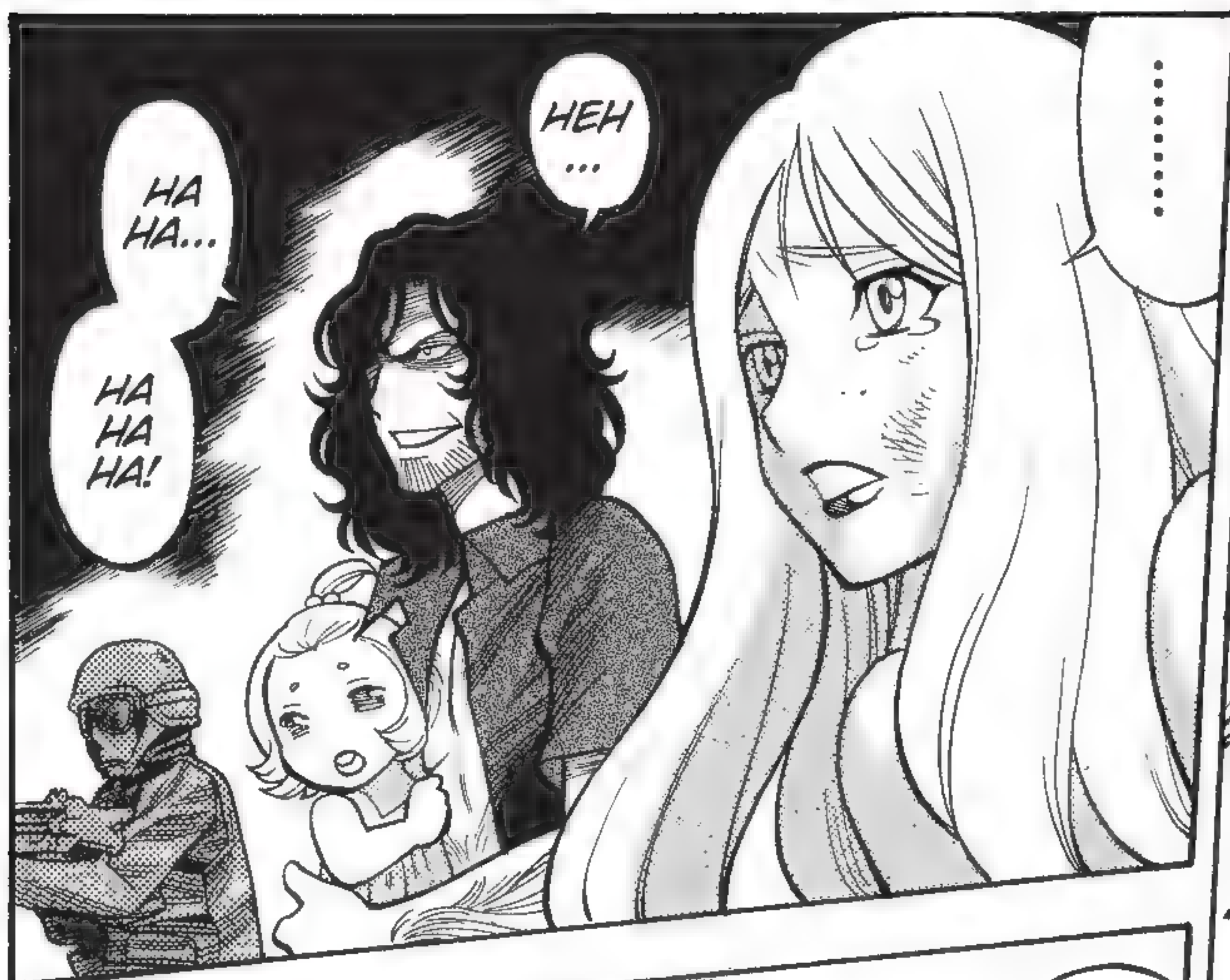
WITH THE
MINIMUM OF
BLOODSHED,
COLLATERAL
DAMAGE, AND
MOST OF ALL,
UNNECESSARY
INJURY TO
YOUR ROYAL
PERSON.

WAS IN
FACT THE
MOST
PRUDENT
PATH TO
TAKE IN
ORDER TO
RESOLVE
THIS
ISSUE...



THUS,
IT WAS
DEEMED
THAT THIS
STRATEGY,
COWARDLY
THOUGH
IT MAY
SEEM...





HA
HA...

HA
HA
HA!

HEH
...

.....

I MUST
ADMIT,
I AM
WEARY OF
RUNNING.

FWISH



THERE
IS
JUST
ONE
THING.

I HAVE
NOT FED
IN DAYS,
AND MY
HUNGER
IS FIT TO
DRIVE ME
MAD.

IF I
GUESS
CORRECTLY,
A VERY
LONG,
ARDUOUS
JOURNEY
AWAITS ME.

DO AS
YOU
WILL.



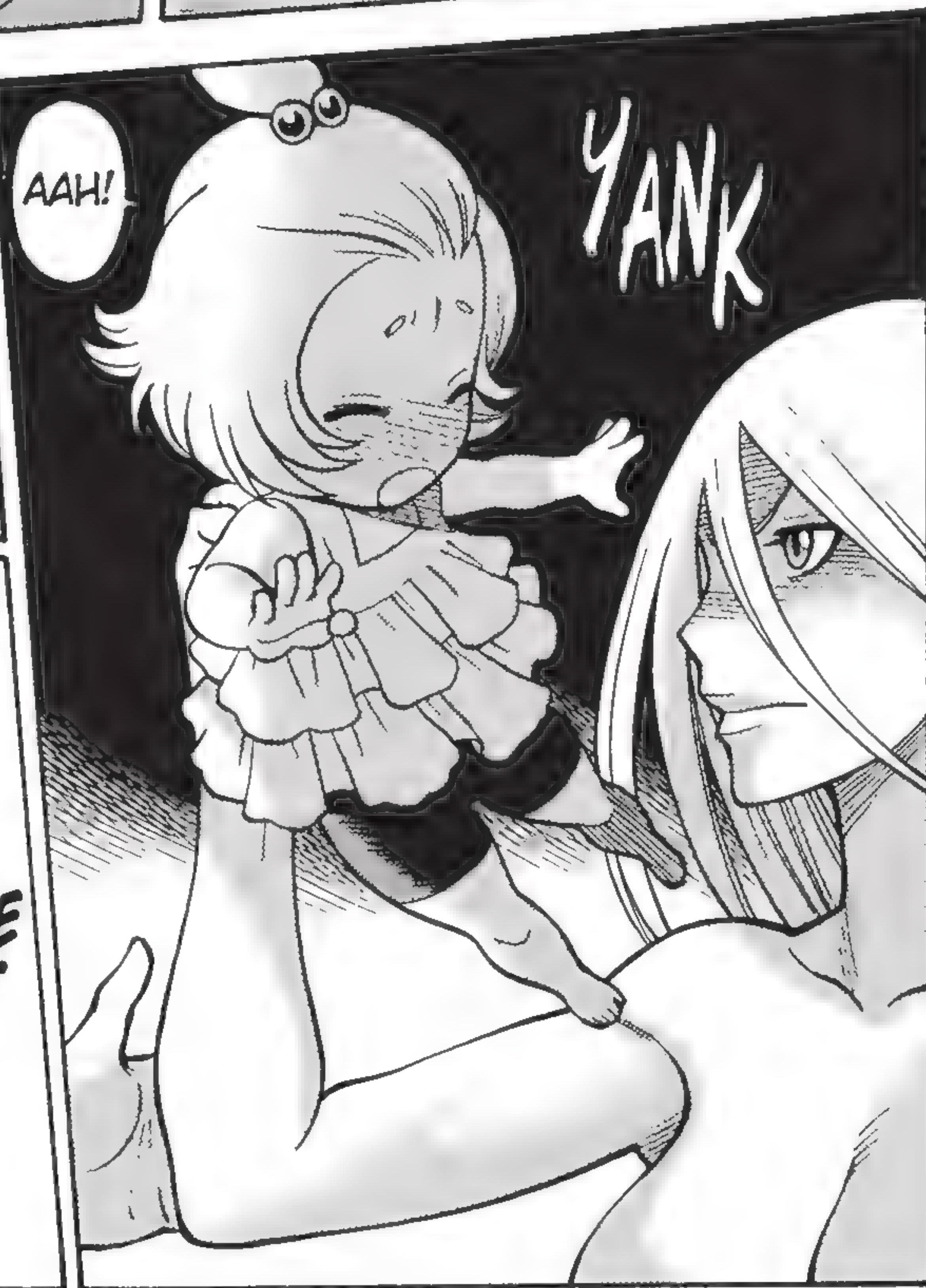
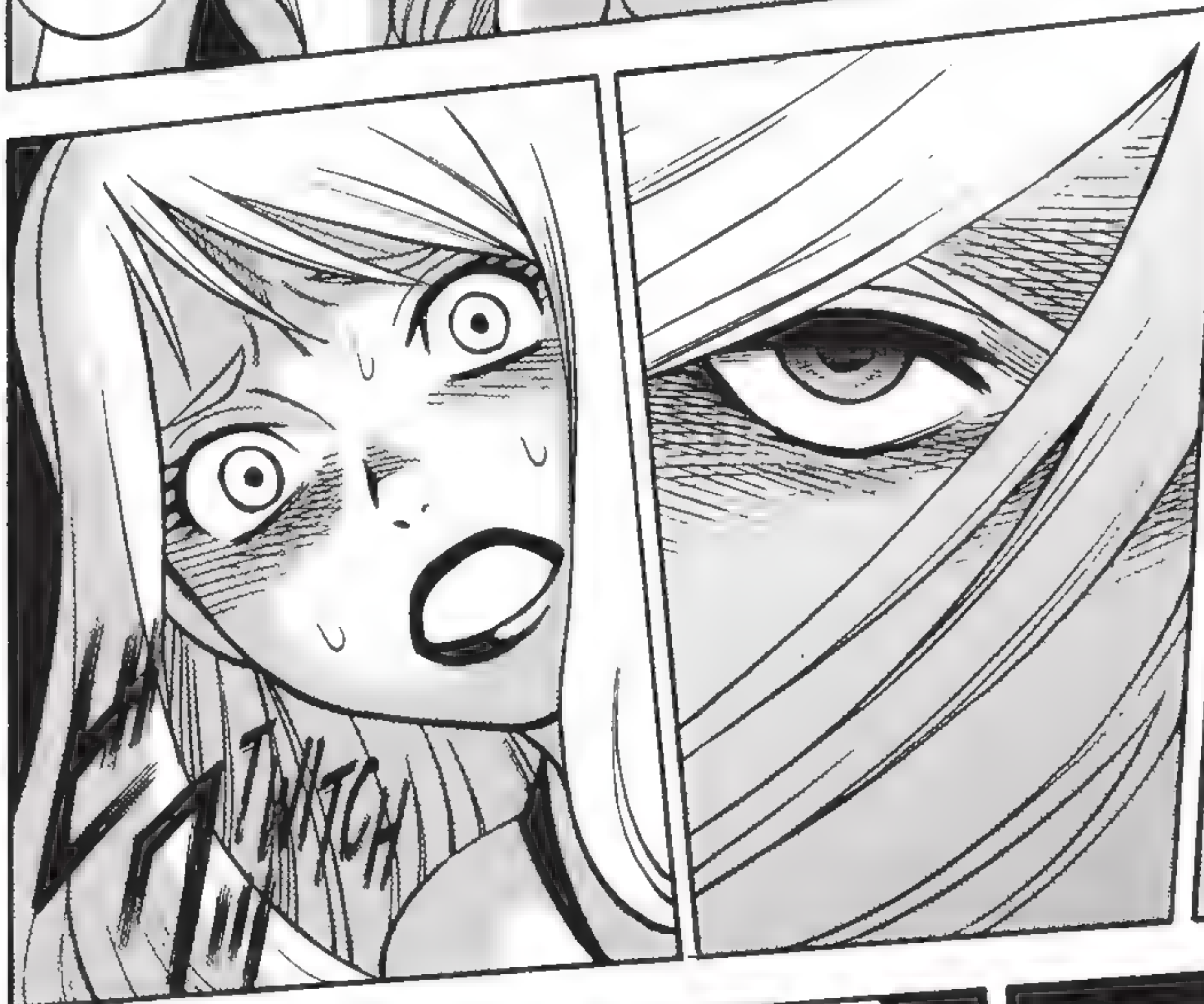
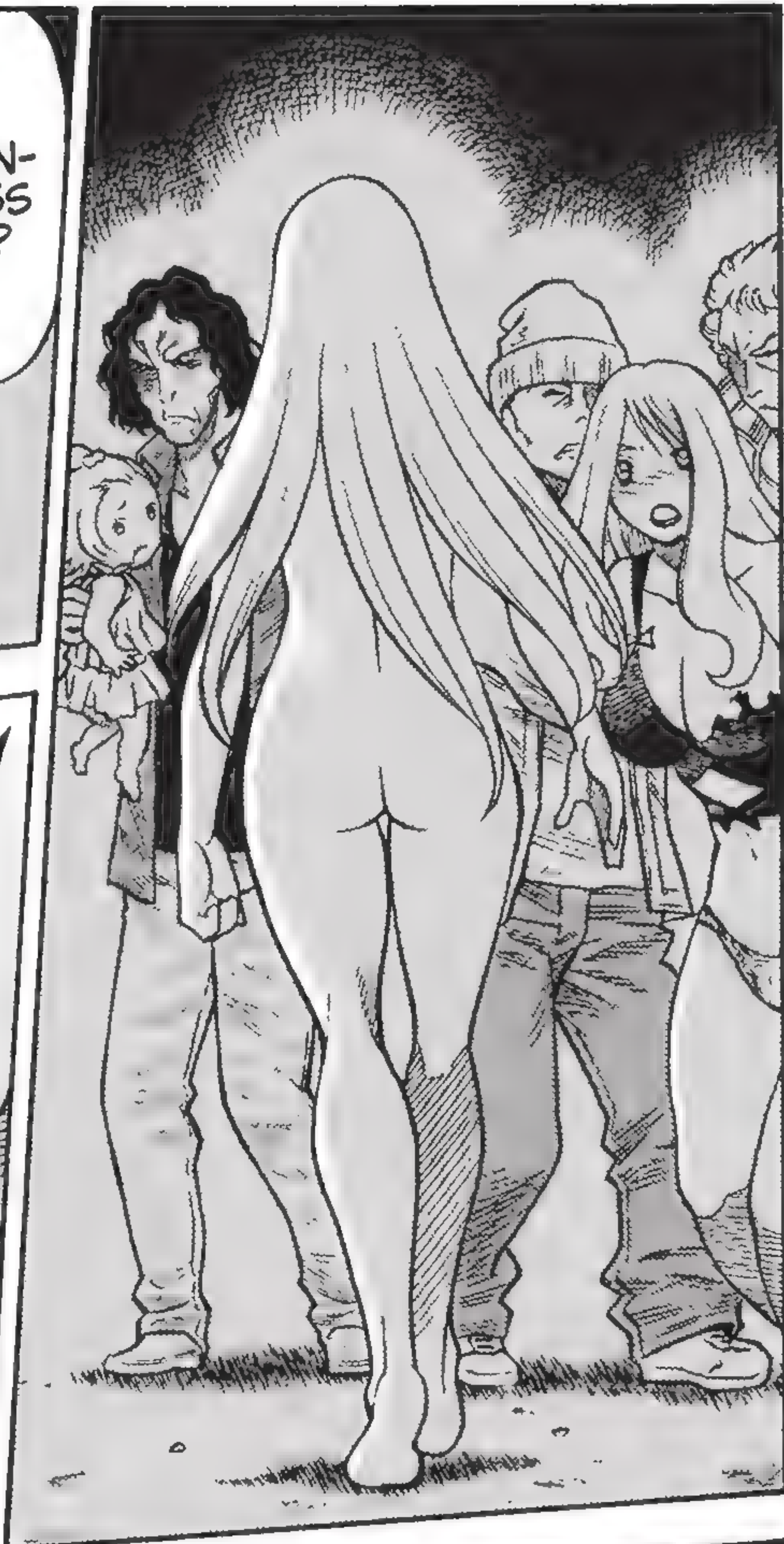
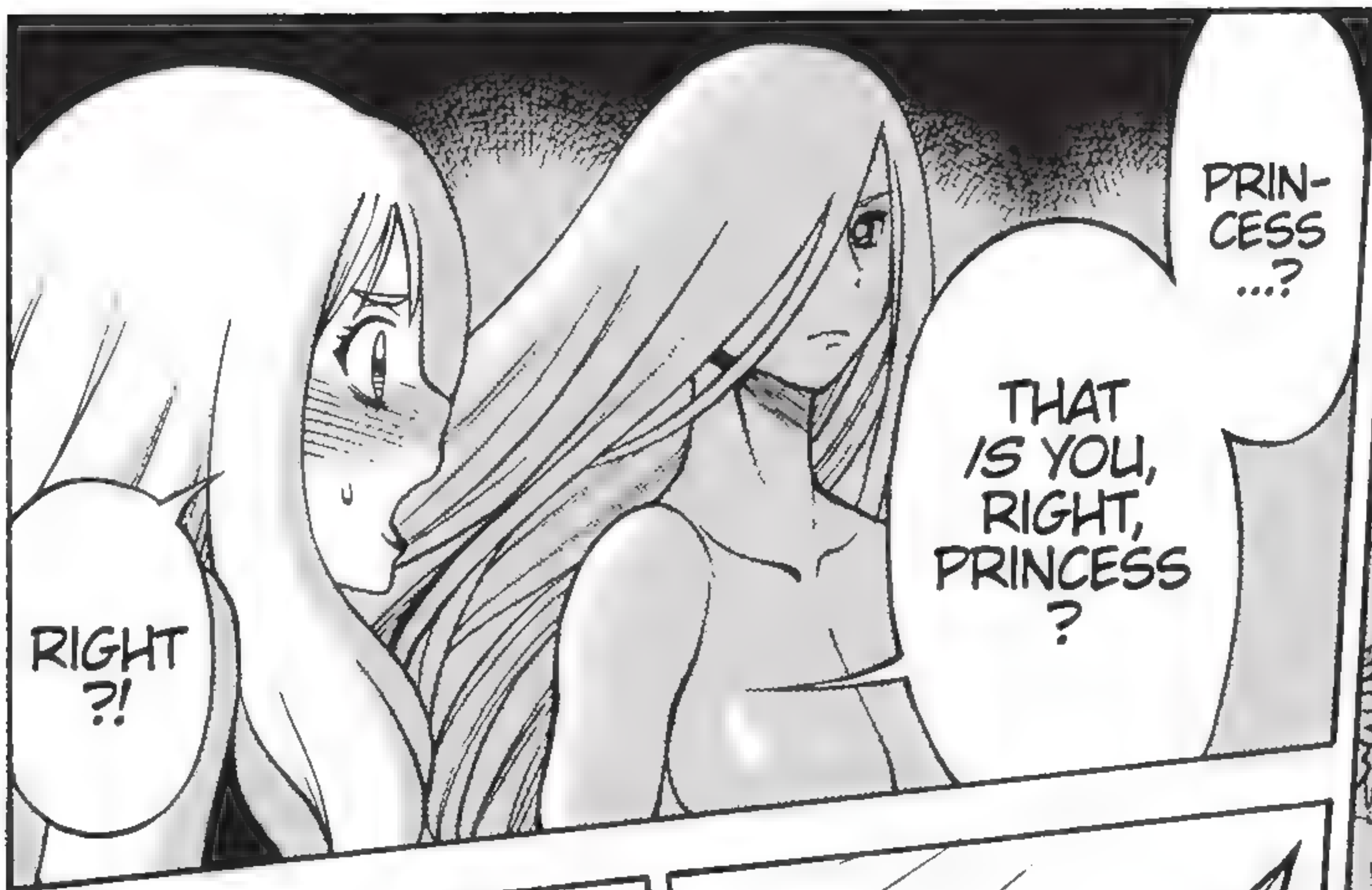
AS
YOU
WISH,
YOUR
MAJ-
ESTY.

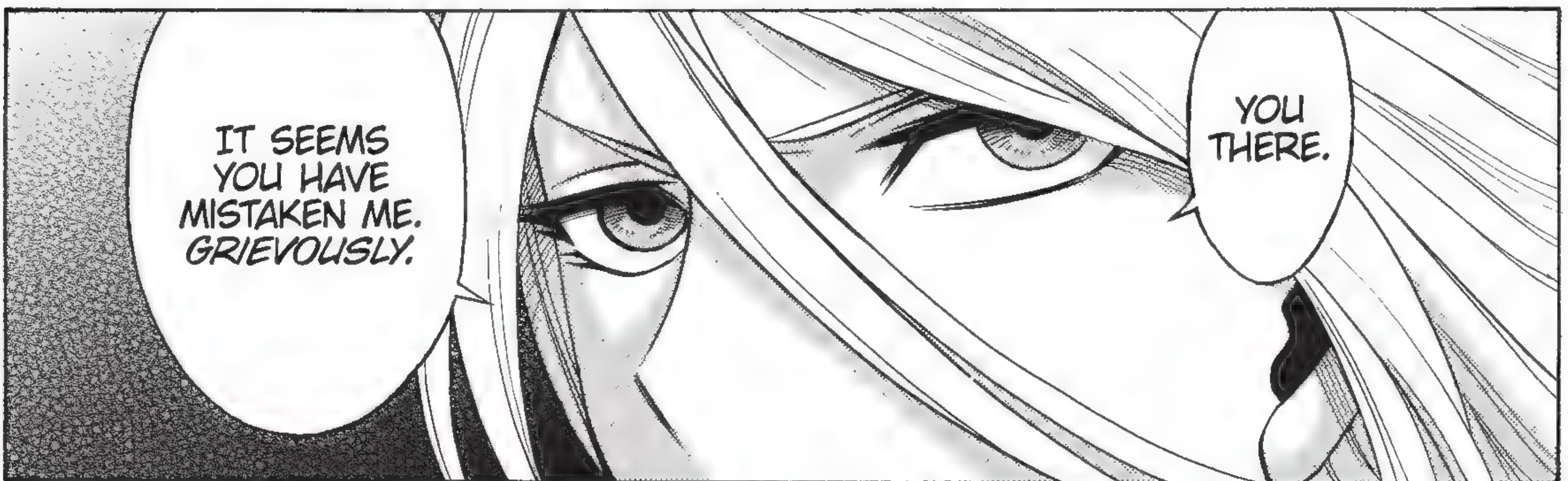


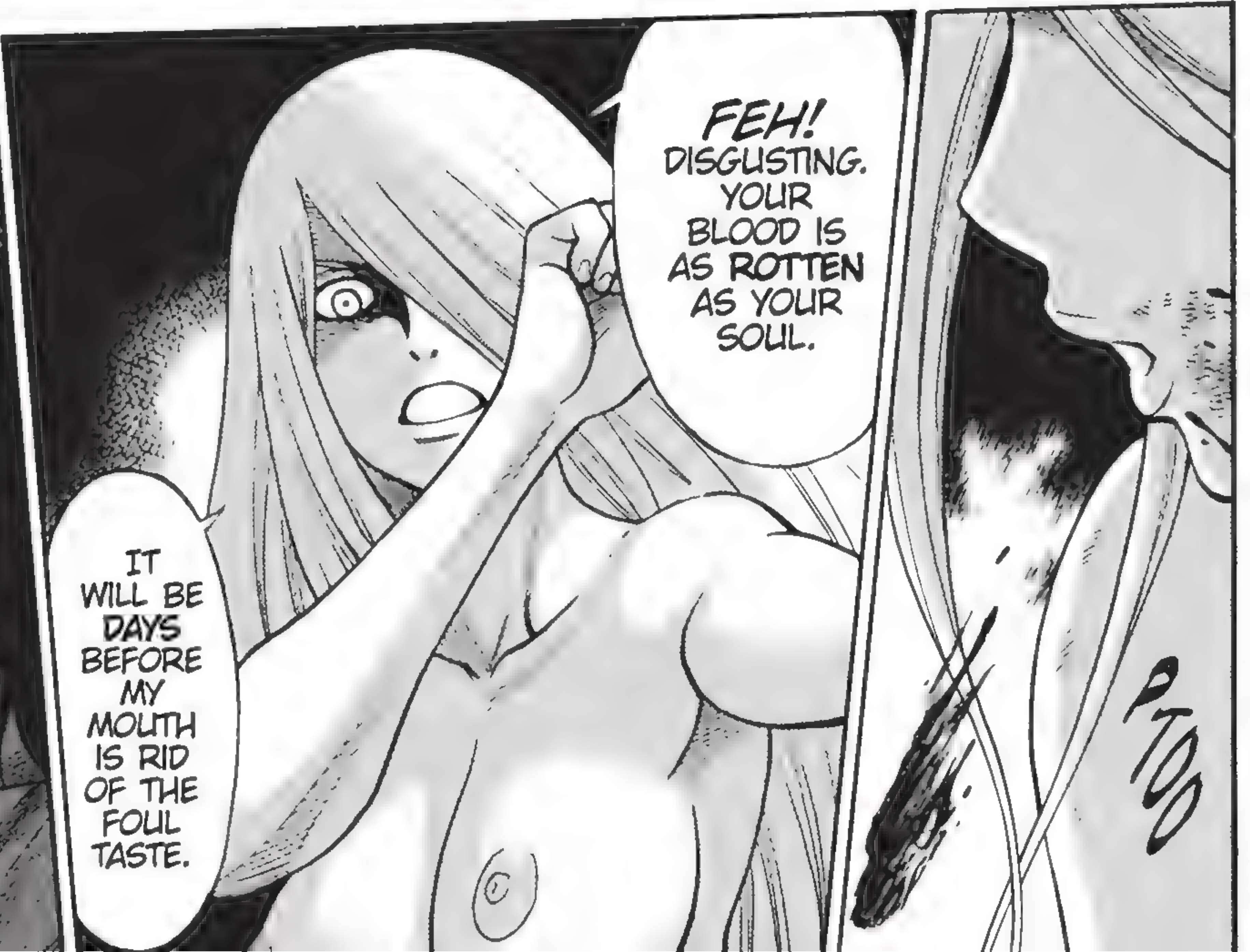
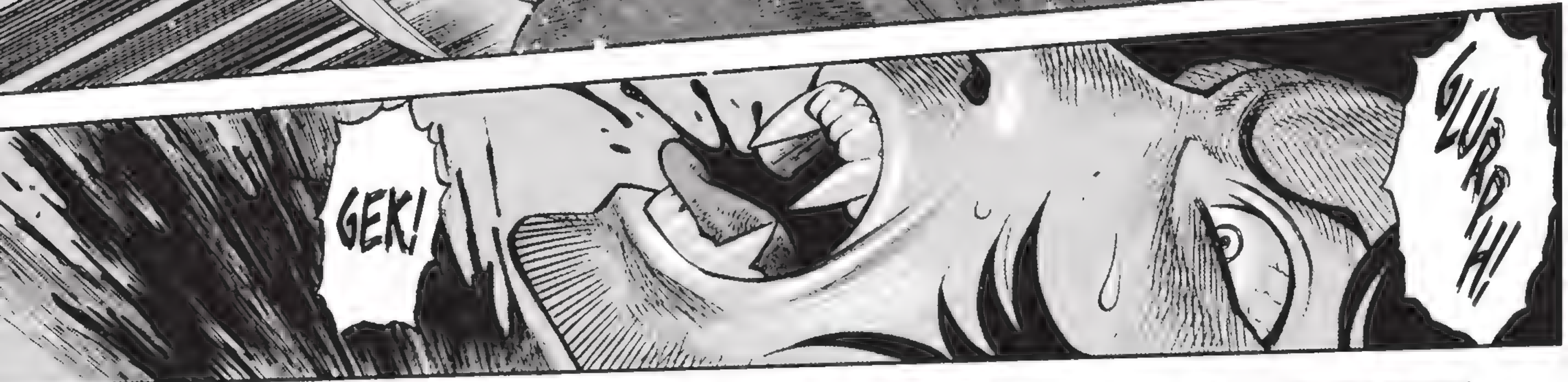
I
SHOULD
LIKE TO
SLAKE
MY
THIRST.



BE-
FORE
WE
DEPART
...









KY
A
A
A
A
A
A
A
A
!!!
222





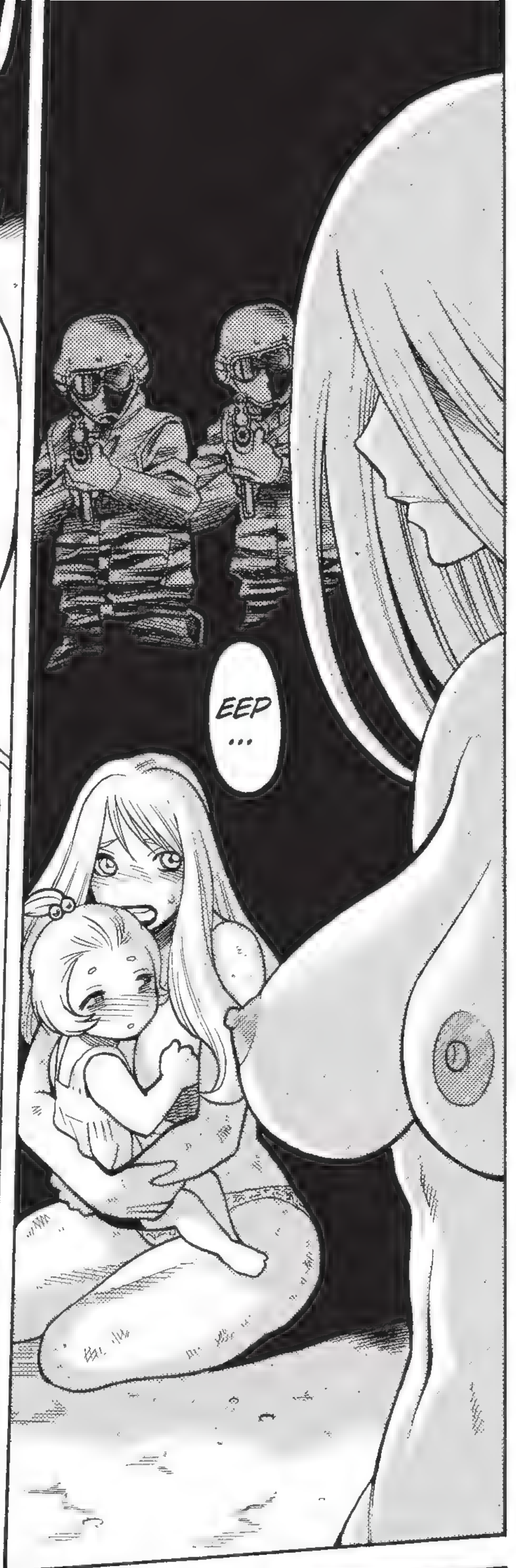
GO HOME.

GO HOME,
AND
FORGET
YOU
EVER
MET
ME.

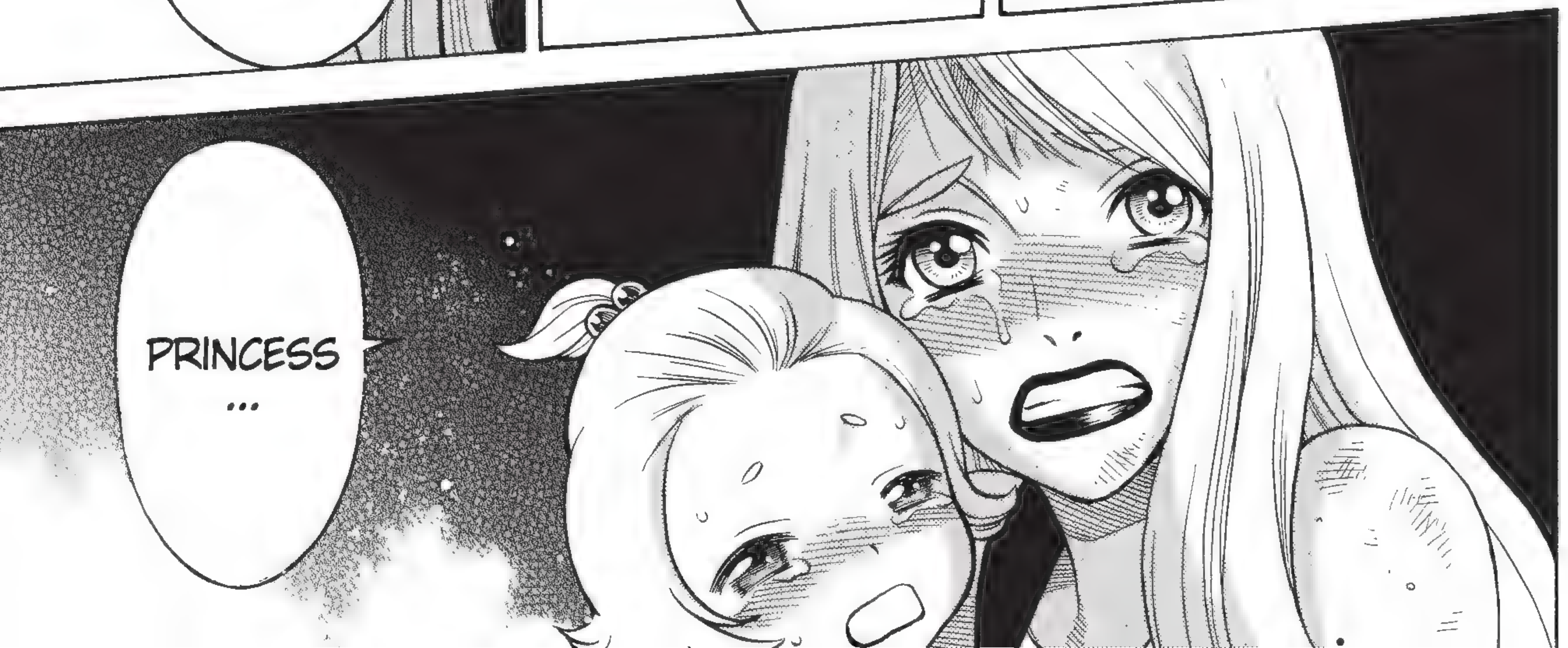


LOOK,
AND
SEE
WELL.

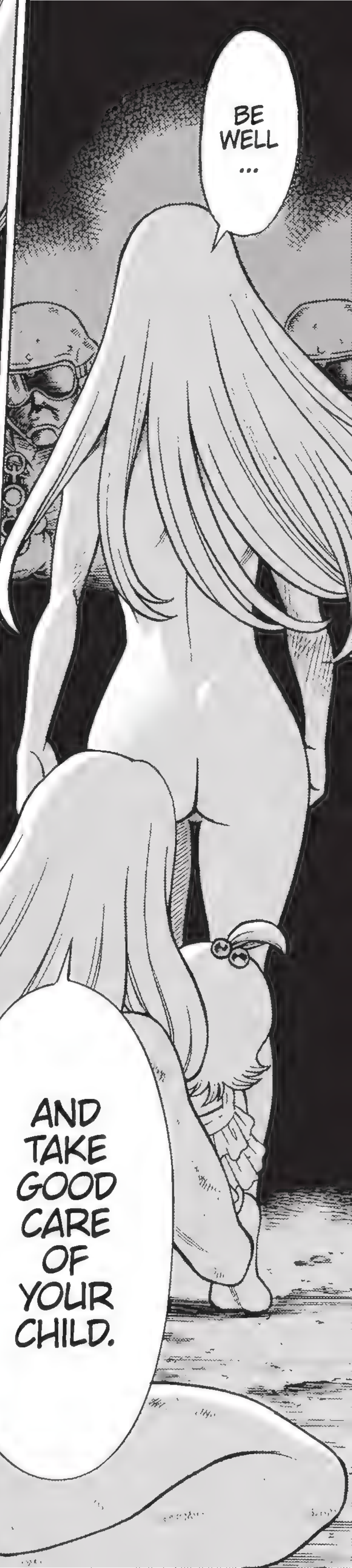
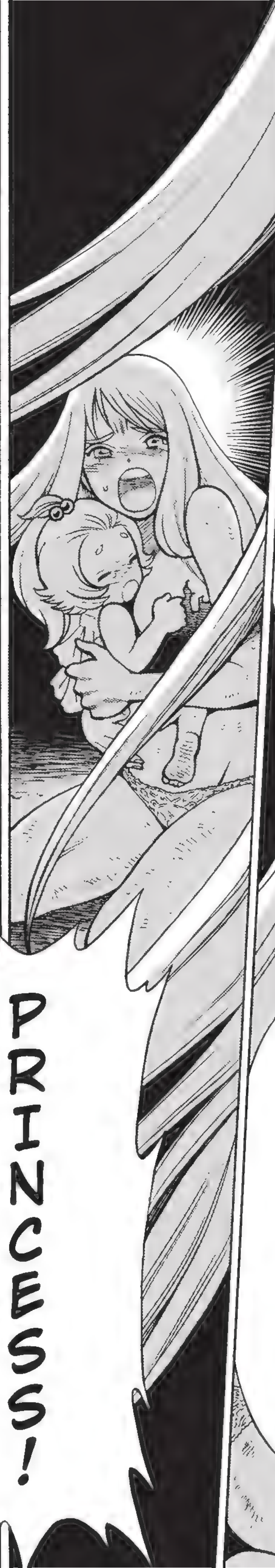
THIS IS
WHAT IT
MEANS TO
BE A
VAMPIRE.
THIS IS
WHAT YOU
ATTEMPTED
TO PROTECT
WITH YOUR
FEEBLE
HUMAN
LIFE...



EEP
...



PRINCESS
...



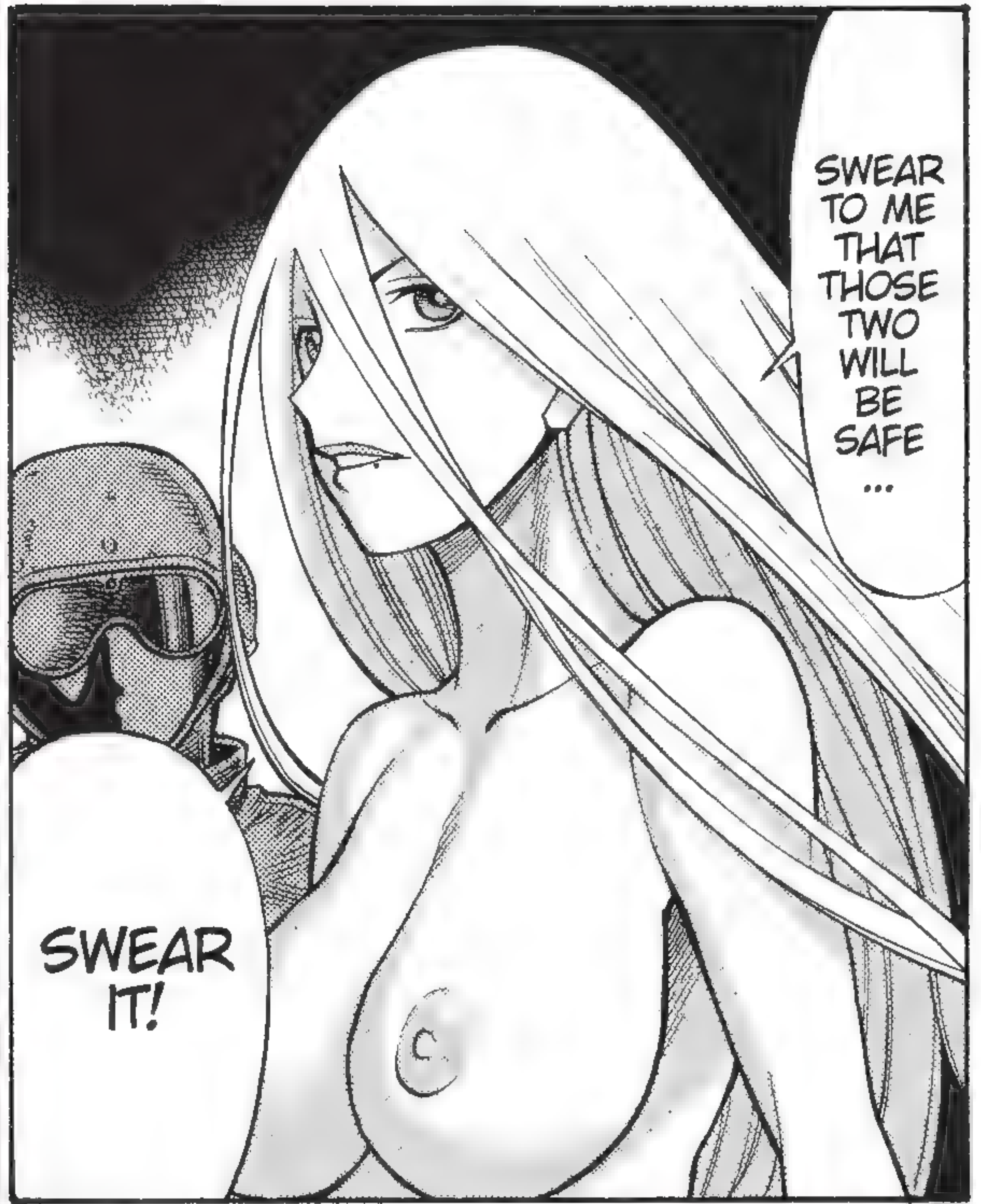
ARRRHHH!!!

BE
WELL
...

AND
TAKE
GOOD
CARE
OF
YOUR
CHILD.

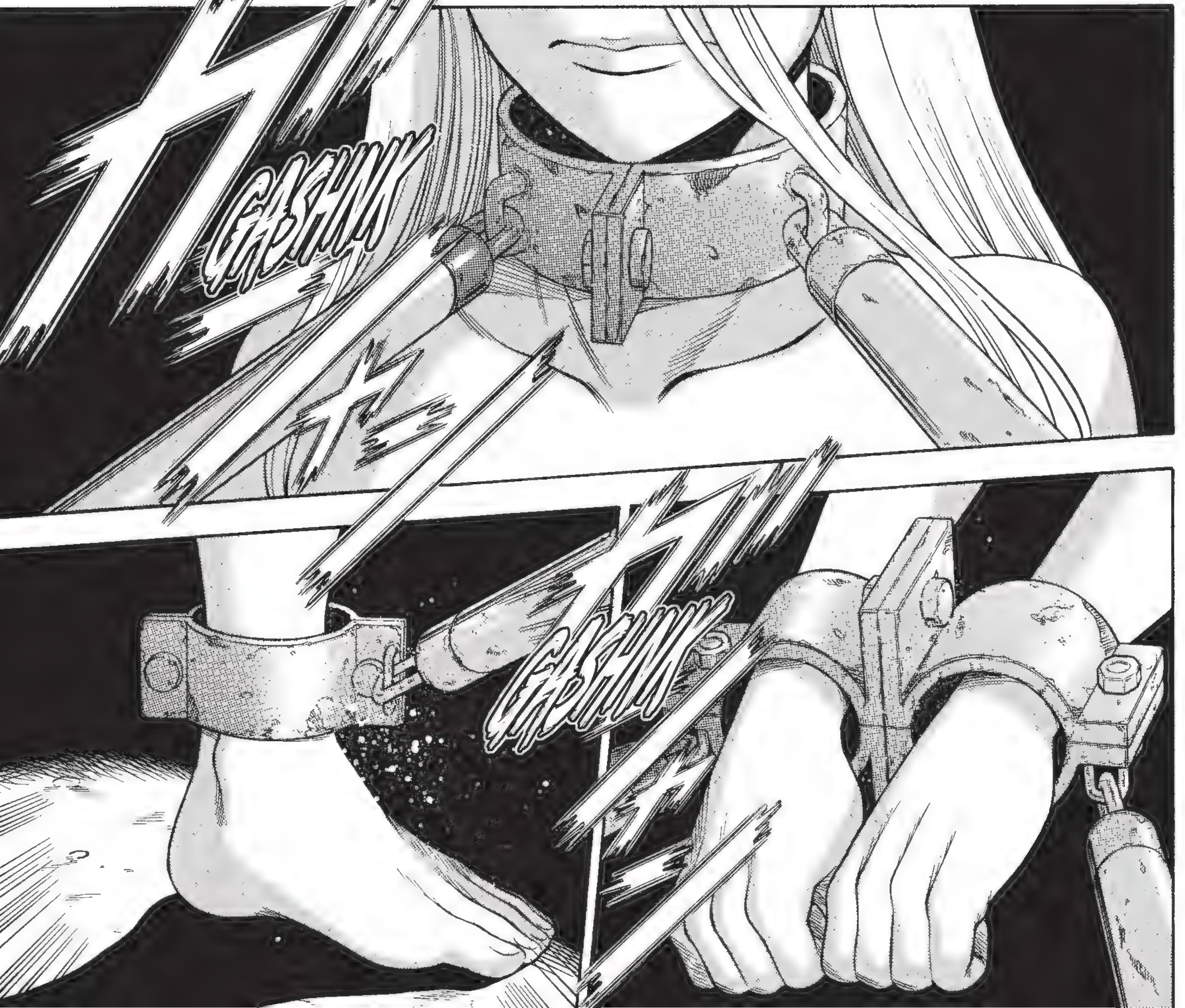


I SWEAR
UPON THE
HONOR
OF MY
HOUSE AND
MY CLAN
THAT THEY
SHALL BE
UNHARMED.



SWEAR
TO ME
THAT
THOSE
TWO
WILL
BE
SAFE
...

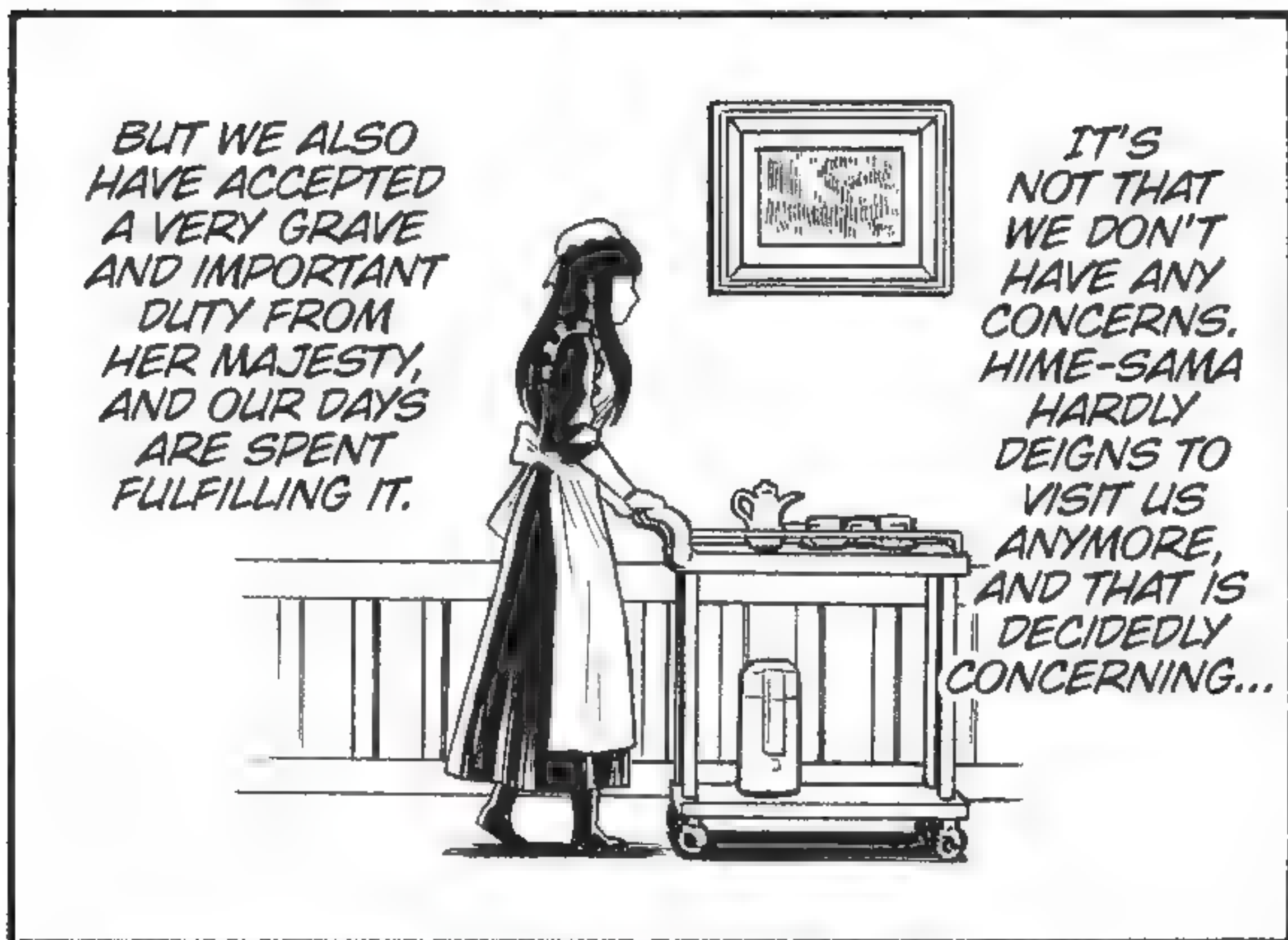
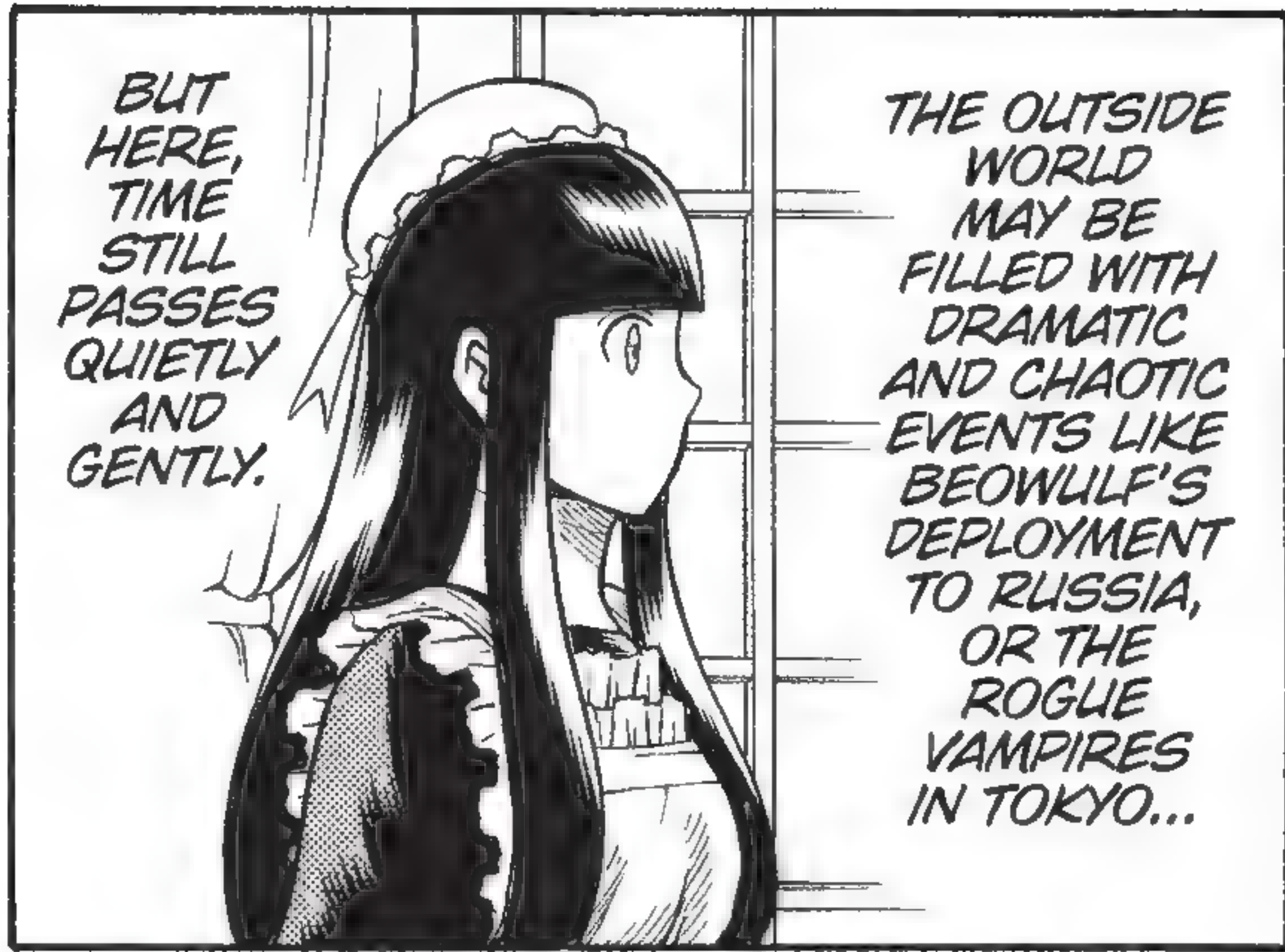
SWEAR
IT!





TO BE CONTINUED!!

Dance In The Vampire Blood



DANCE with the VAMPIRE MAID





THEY MUST HAVE THOUGHT WE WERE REMNANTS OF THE SPANISH ARMADA, SEE, AND SO GAVE US NO CHANCE FOR PARLAY!

AND SO THE CANNON BARRAGE FROM THE BRITISH FRIGATE RIPPED RIGHT INTO OUR GALLEON, FULL BROADSIDE!



M'LORD SEN-ATORS!!

AH, YOUR PARDON, YOUNG MAID. WE DID NOT MEAN TO STARTLE YOU.



BTHMP BTHMP BTHMP

WE WERE ON THE SEA, AND BRAVERY MEANS NOTHING IN THE FACE OF GRAVITY. THUS, WE WERE PROMPTLY AND IGNOMINIOUSLY TOSSED INTO THE DRINK!

NOW, HAD WE OUR FEET PLANTED FIRMLY ON SOLID GROUND, THERE WERE NO ENEMIES WE FEARED TO FACE! NONE OUR COURAGEOUS BLADES COULD NOT BEST! BUT ALAS!



AND WITHOUT THOSE PUPS AROUND TO SPAR WITH, WELL, WE WERE GETTING BORED, TO BE FRANK.

SEE, WE WEREN'T GIVEN THE HONOR OF JOINING THE REST OF BEOWULF ON THEIR TRIP TO SIBERIA.



AND THIS WASN'T JUST ANY SHARK! NO, IT WAS THE LARGEST ONE THE WORLD HAD EVER SEEN! ALL FOUR OF US WERE SWALLOWED IN ONE GULP!!

BUT THE DANGER DID NOT STOP THERE, FOR WHAT AWAITED THE POOR, BEDRAGGLED SURVIVORS OF THE SUNKEN GALLEON? A SHARK! A SHARK WHOSE GIANT, TOOTHY JAWS WERE JUST WAITING TO MAKE A MEAL OUT OF POOR LAND-LUBBERS LIKE US!

OH NO!!



NOW THE FOUR OF US, WE'VE GOT A FAIR FEW STORIES WE COULD SHARE. SO WE DECIDED TO DROP BY FOR A VISIT!

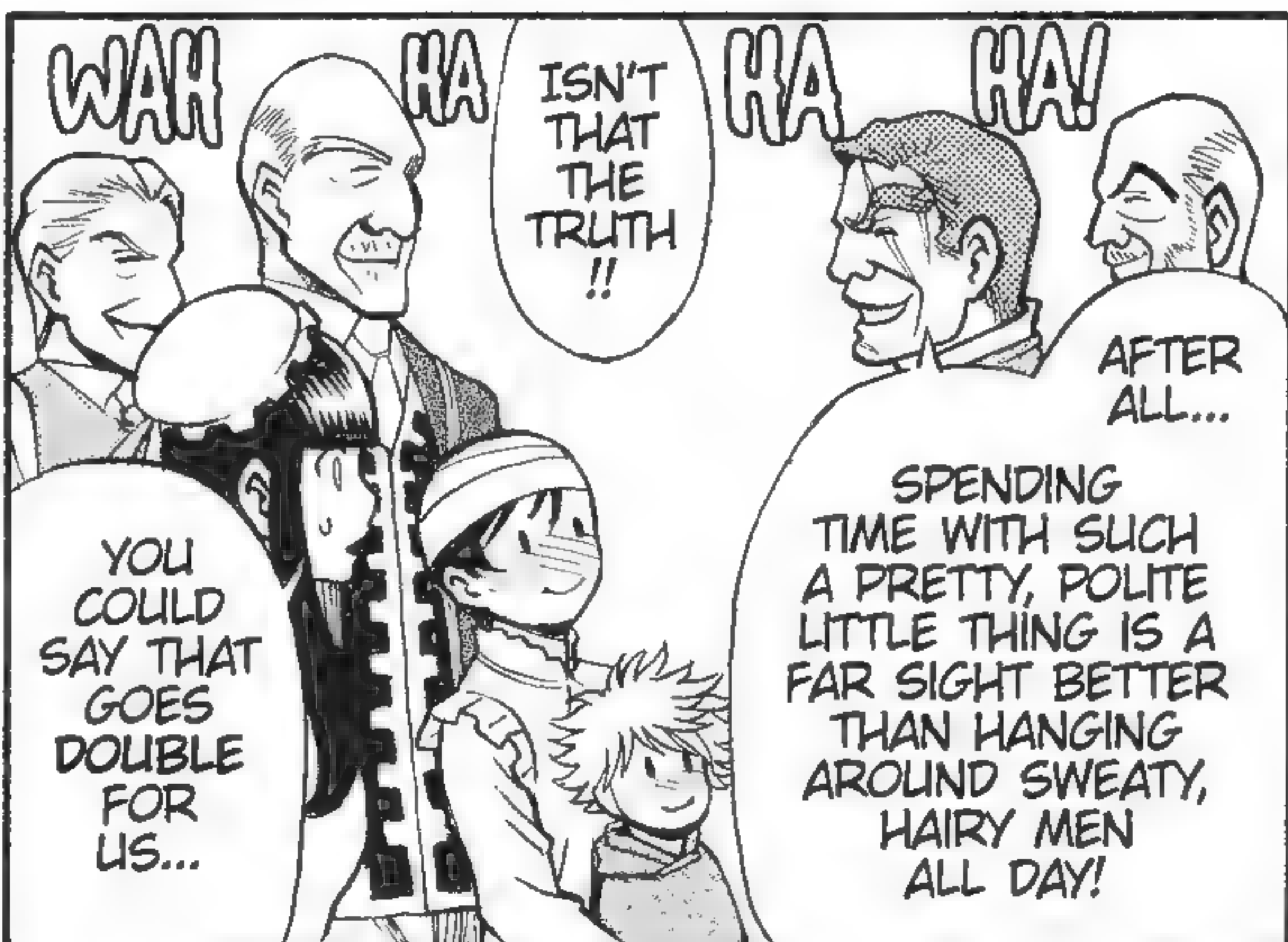
SO LITTLE YUUKI HERE TOLD US OF THIS LOVELY YOUNG LADY, AND HOW SHE VERY MUCH LOVED HEARING STORIES.



KNOWING THEM, THEY MIGHT ACTUALLY HAVE DONE IT. AND THAT SCARES ME...

BUT UNFORTUNATELY FOR THAT SHARK, IT HAD NOT SWALLOWED SIMPLE MEN, BUT WOLVES! AND WE, TOO, WERE HUNGRY! SO AS IT HAD EATEN US, WE ATE IT FROM THE INSIDE OUT!

NO WAY!!



YOU COULD SAY THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR US...

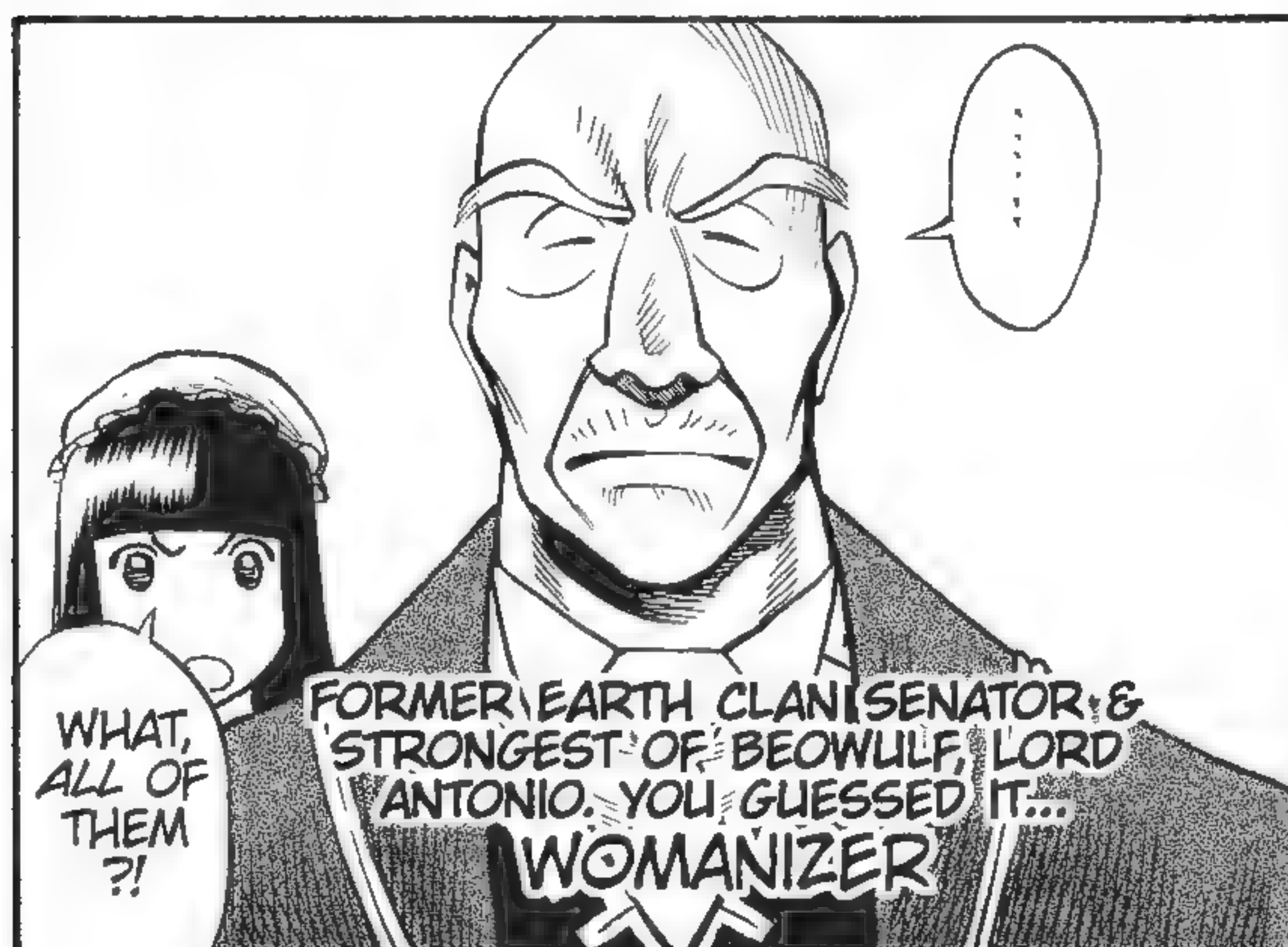
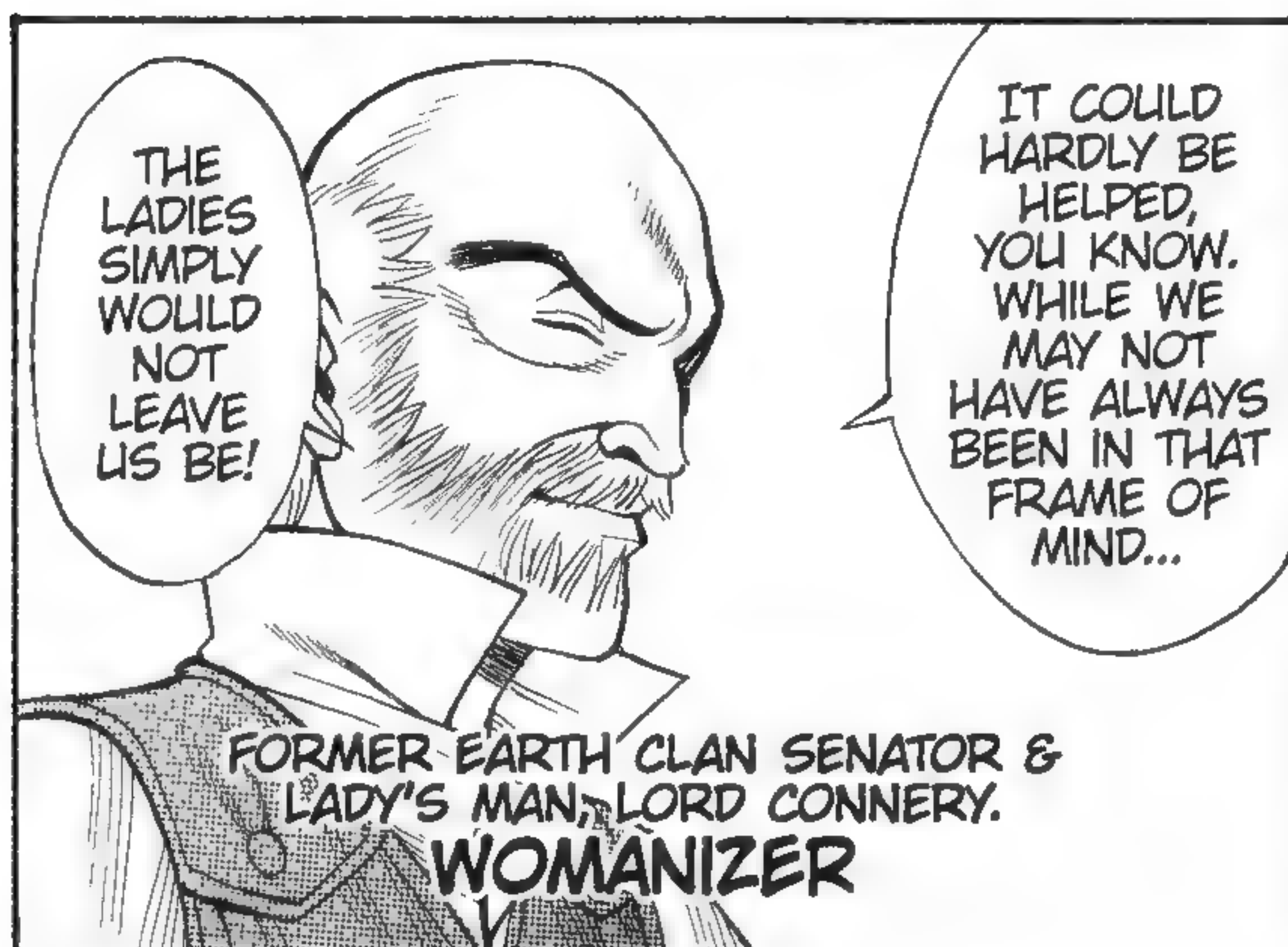
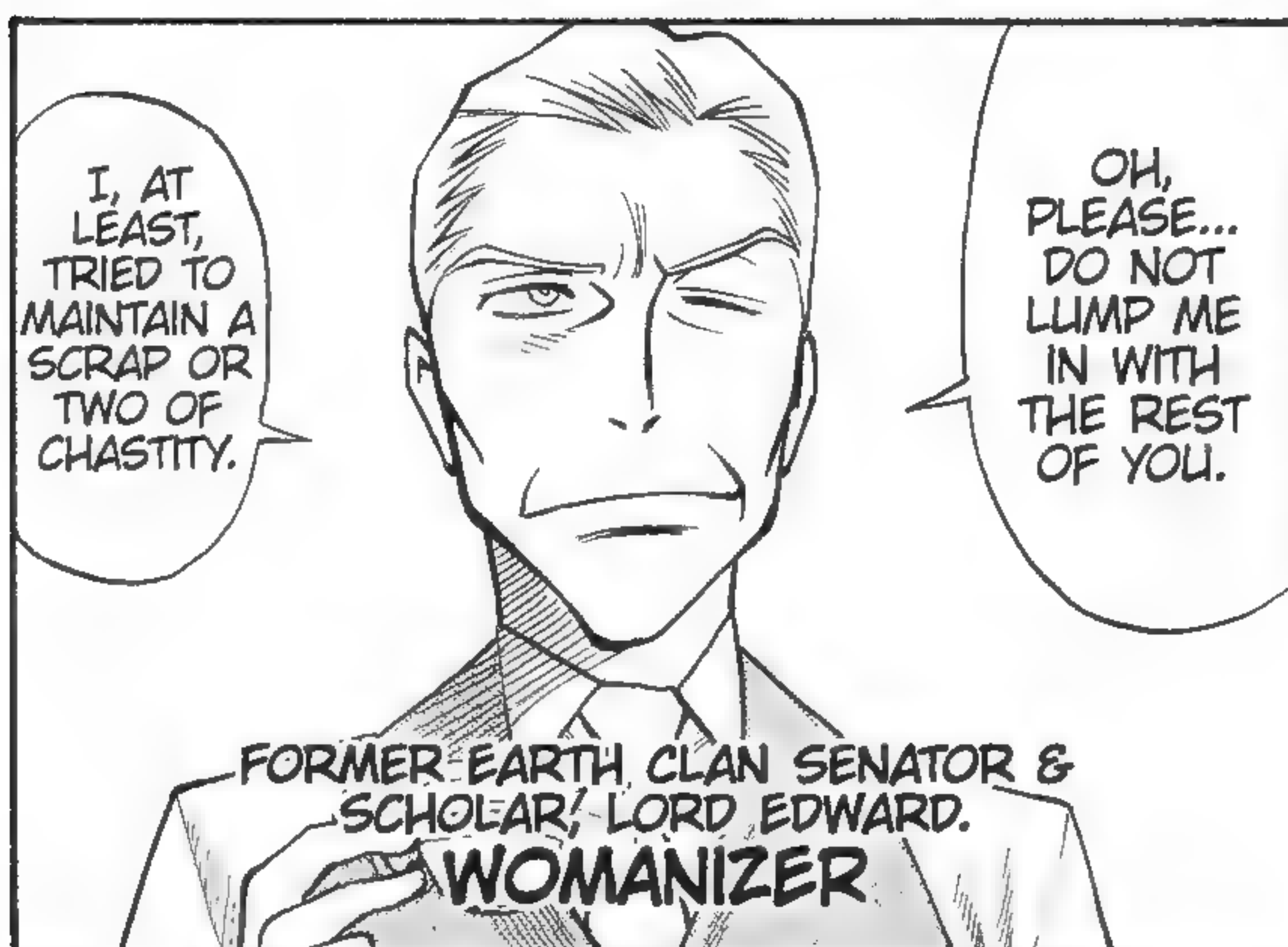
ISN'T THAT THE TRUTH!!

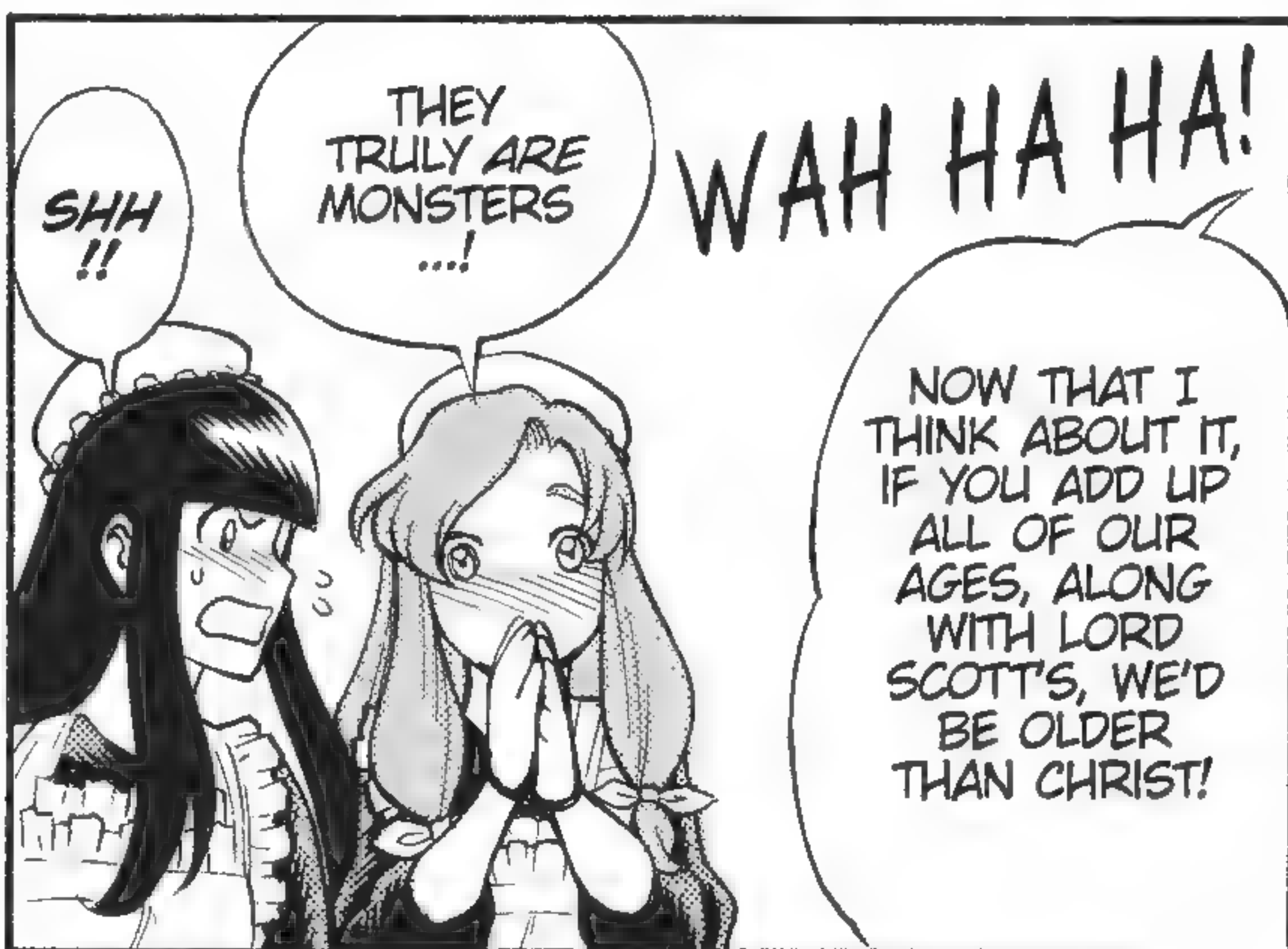
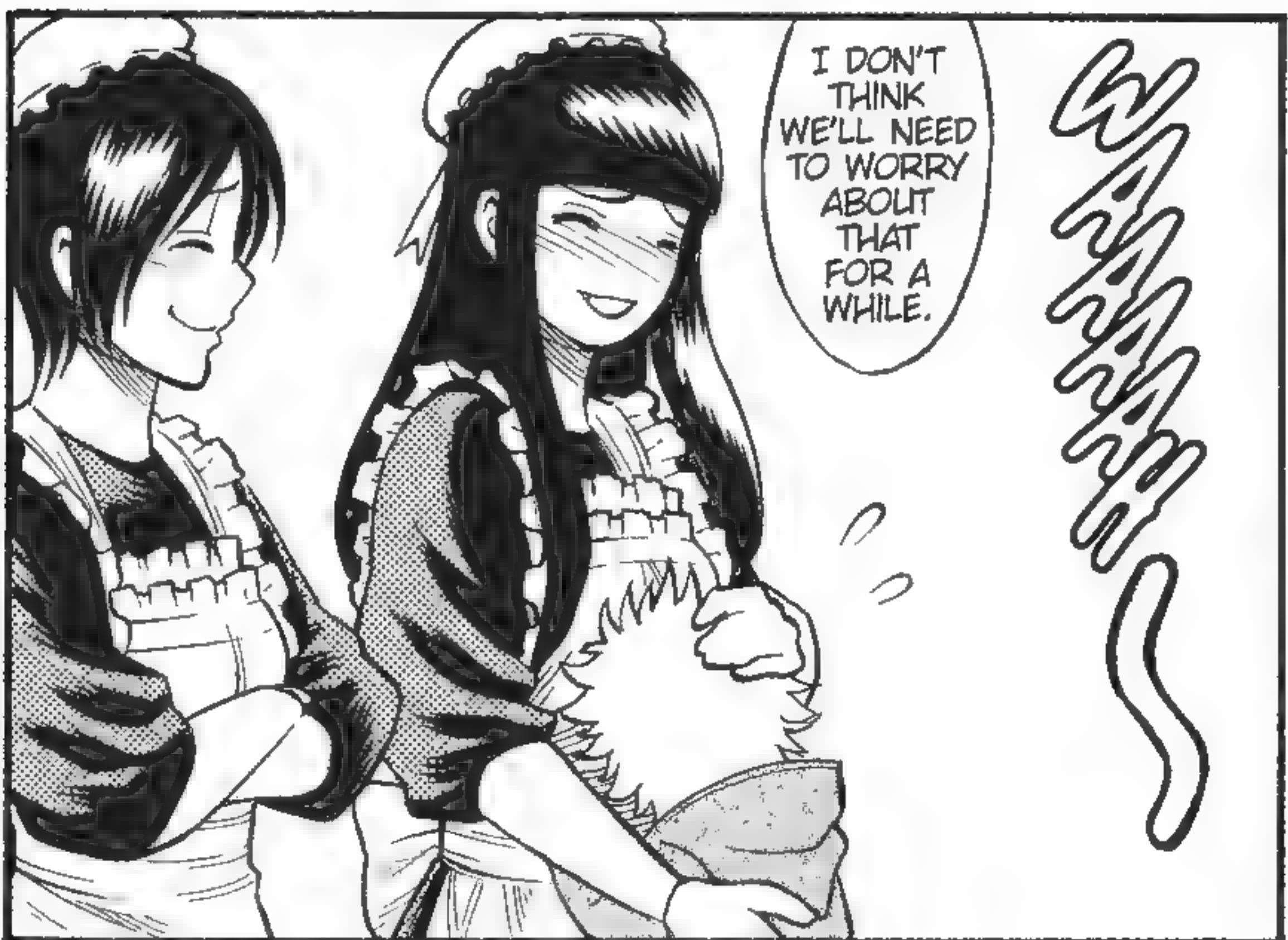
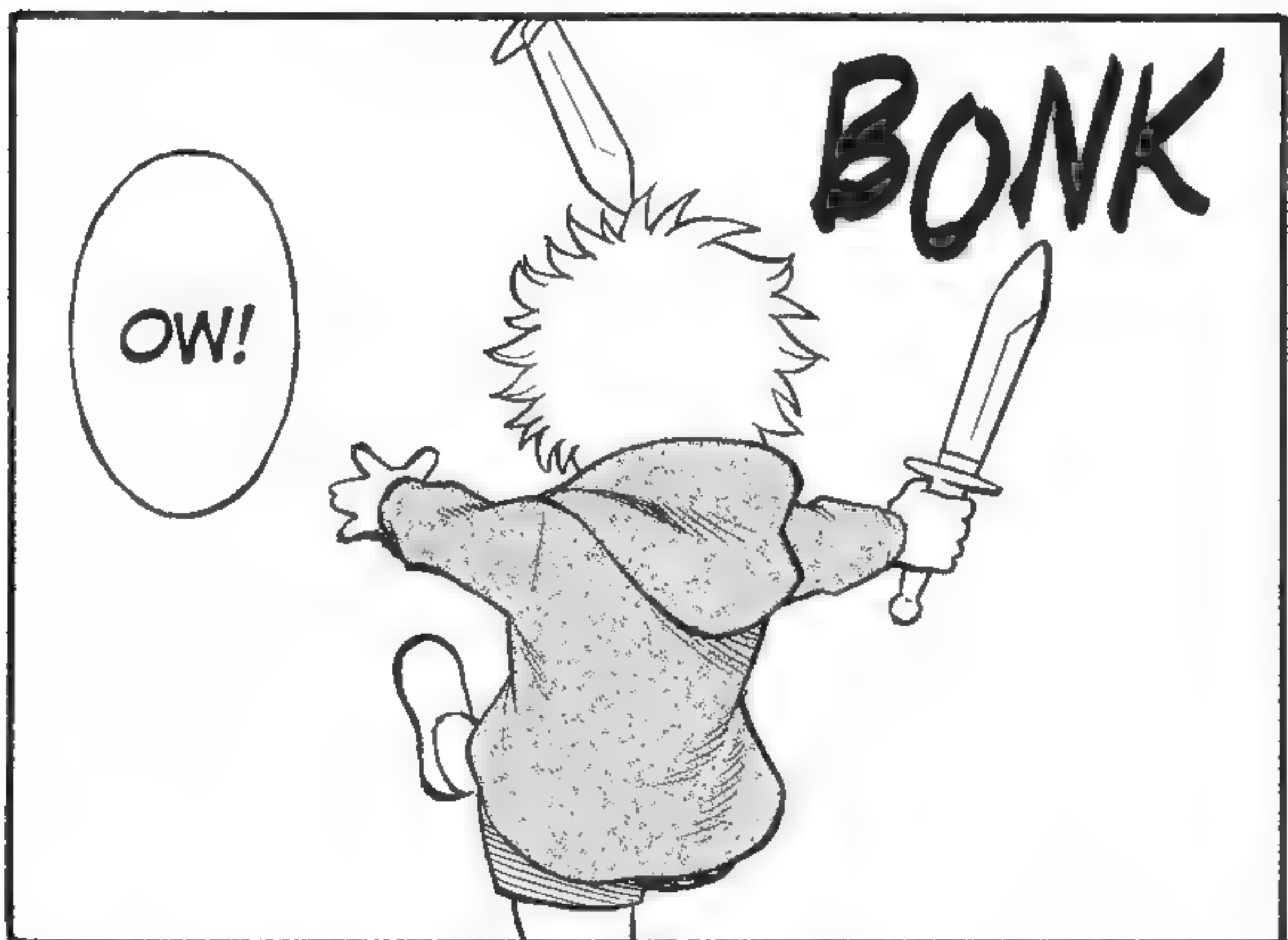
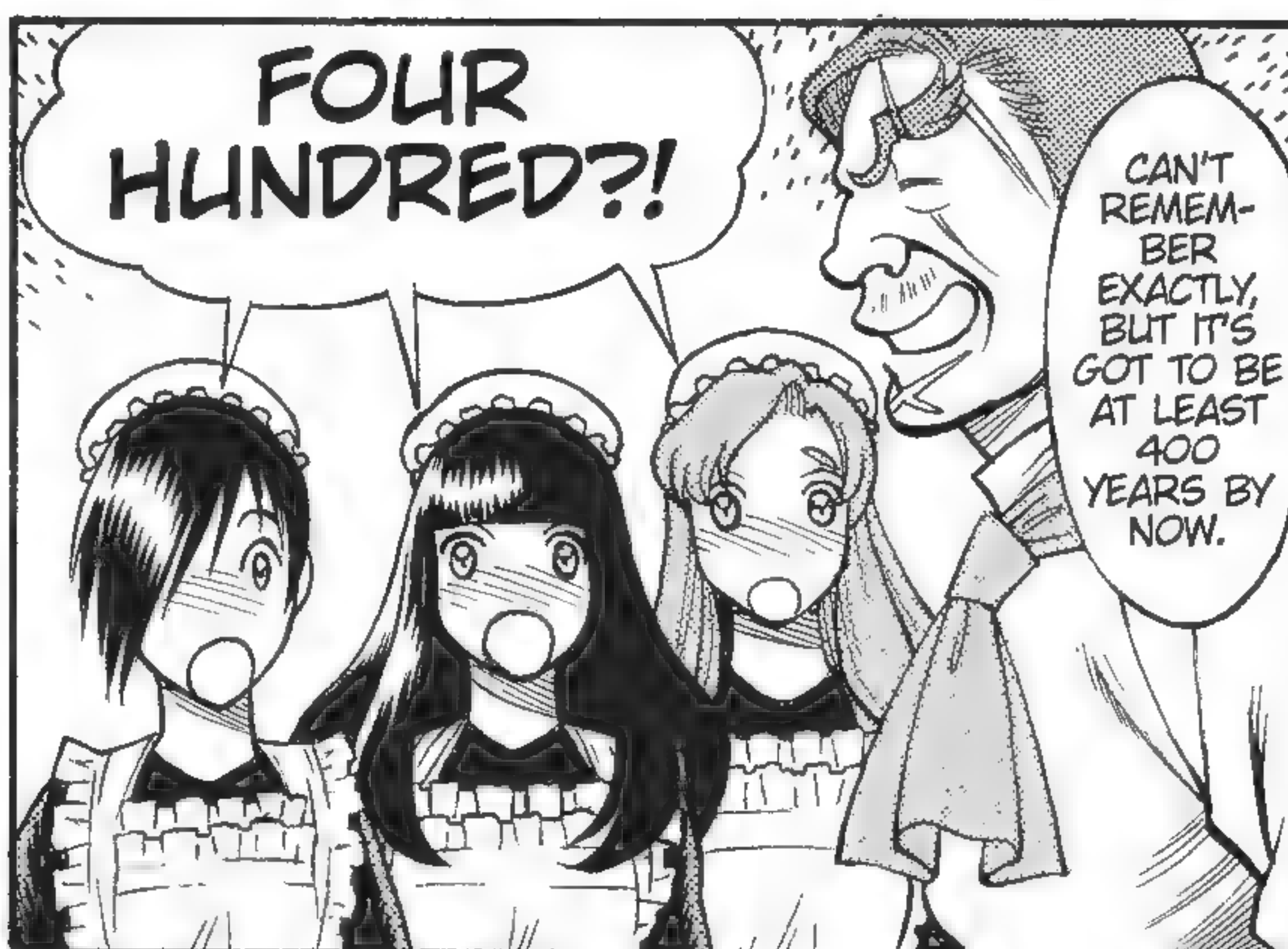
AFTER ALL...

SPENDING TIME WITH SUCH A PRETTY, POLITE LITTLE THING IS A FAR SIGHT BETTER THAN HANGING AROUND SWEATY, HAIRY MEN ALL DAY!

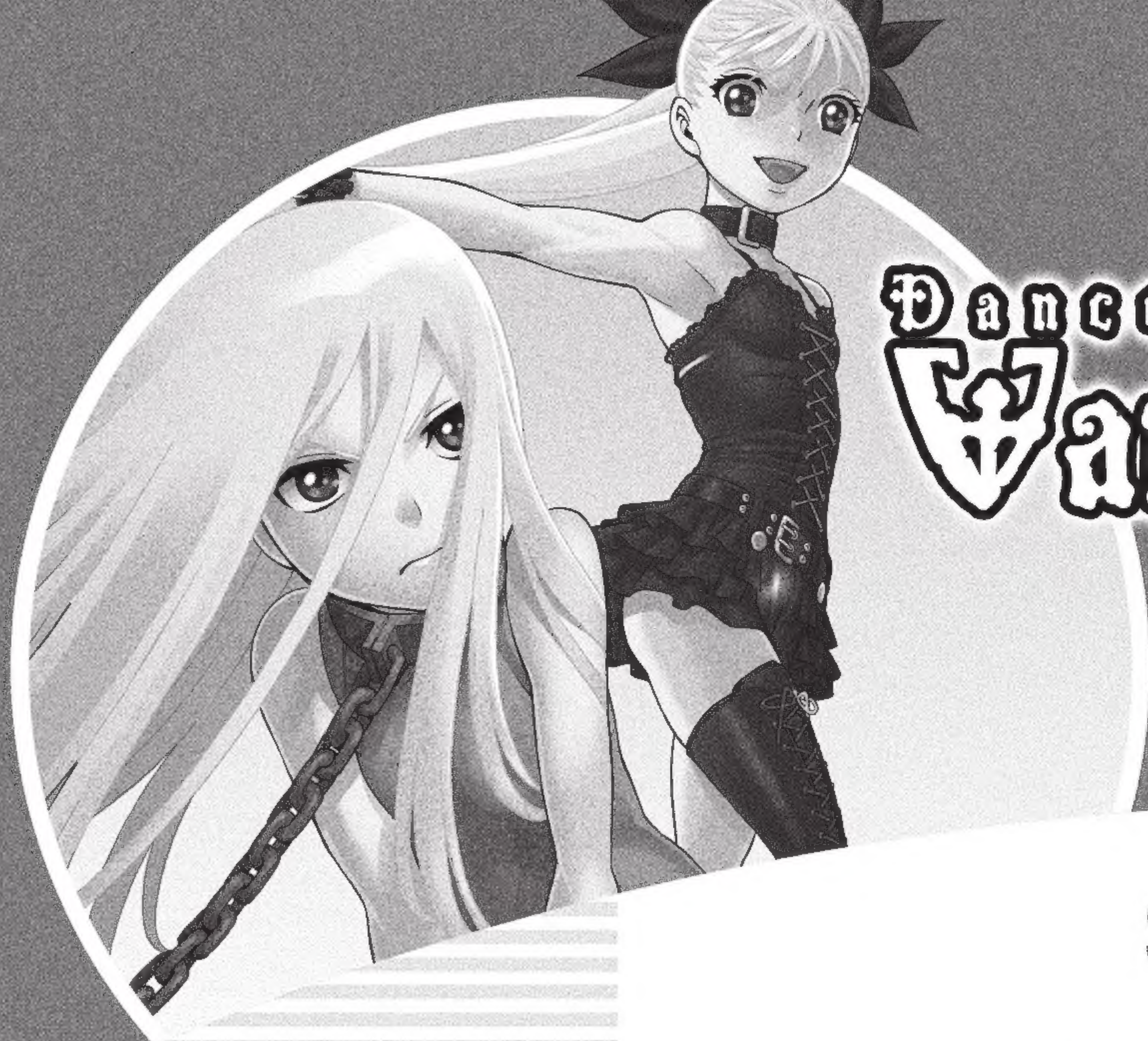


*Mata Hari!





SEE YOU NEXT TIME!!



Dance in the Vampire Bund

Volume 10

story & art by Nozomu Tamaki

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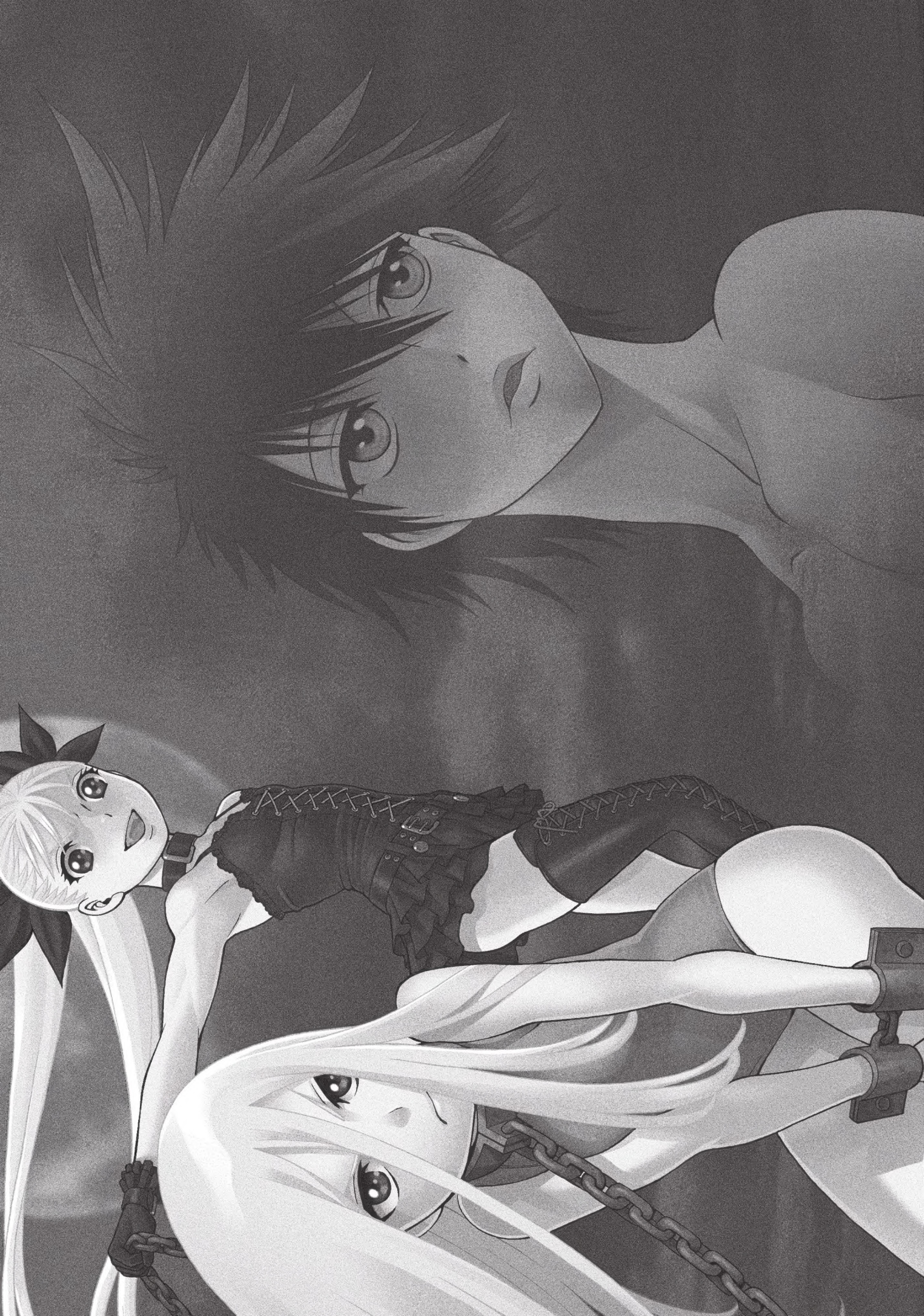


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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2



THE END

YOU'RE READING THE WRONG WAY

This is the last page of
Dance in the Vampire Bund
Volume 10



This book reads from right to left, Japanese style. To read from the beginning, flip the book over to the other side, start with the top right panel, and take it from there.

If this is your first time reading manga, just follow the diagram. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get used to it! Have fun!

